

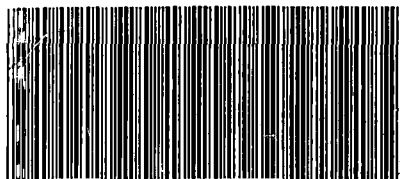
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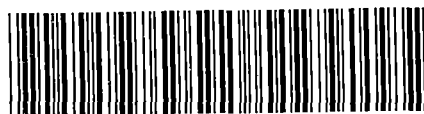
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Sirhan and His Mother May Take the Stand

By THEO WILSON
Staff Correspondents of THE NEWS

Los Angeles, Jan. 29—Sirhan Sirhan, killer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and his mother, Mary, 55, may be called to the witness stand to tell about their poverty and their financial struggles here.

Their testimony would be given to Judge Herbert V. Walker in the absence of the jury, to be used as part of the defense's fight to quash the first degree murder indictment returned against Sirhan by a grand jury last year.

Challenge by Cooper

Chief defense attorney Grant B. Cooper said today, out of court, that it is "possible" he will call the mother and son next week. Cooper wants to get their economic status on the record.

Cooper is challenging the entire grand jury system here. Grand jurors are nominated by Superior Court judges. According to the defense today, these jurors do not represent those who are poor, uneducated or who belong to minority groups.

Sirhan is 24, and Cooper also argued today that people of his age do not serve as grand jurors here.

The eight men and four women who have been selected as jurors, but not yet sworn, were not in court today during the fight over the indictment, which might take as long as a week.

To bolster his claim that Los Angeles County grand jurors do not represent a true cross-section of the population here, Cooper called as a witness Robert E. Schultz of the University of Southern California Graduate School of Business.

Schultz, who has a Ph.D., is a demographic-sociologist, one who studies population groups to determine social, financial ethnic and occupational statistics.

According to his testimony today:

• The grand jurors of Los Angeles County, the men and women who decide whether or not those accused of crimes should be indicted, are whites, educated, professional or technical workers,

who live in houses worth \$25,000 or more.

• They "in no way" represent the "profile" of Los Angeles as it is reflected by the statistics of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Using maps to illustrate his points, Schultz told Cooper that grand jurors here differ greatly from the population in age, education, geographical distribution, home values and family income.

The Age Breakdown

As an example, Schultz testified, no grand jurors here in 1968 were between 25 and 34 years old. But 26% of the normal population here in 1960 was in that age bracket. (Schultz said the 1960 census figures he was using would not show much change to 1968.)

Also, while 40% of the grand jurors here are 66 and older, only 5% of the normal population is in that age bracket here.

He said that "a vast majority—70%" of the grand jurors have incomes of \$10,000 and up, and that 75% of them live in homes valued at \$25,000 and more.

Over 40% of the grand jurors nominated live in Beverly Hills and other white, upper class suburban areas, Schultz testified. None came from areas predominantly populated by Negroes.

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Mrs. Mary Sirhan
Awaits lawyer's call



Sirhan Sirhan
He may testify

Sirhan Lawyers Attack Grand Jury Composition

By DOUGLAS E. KNEELAND
Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 29—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's attorneys contended today that his indictment on a charge of first-degree murder should be set aside because the grand jury that returned it was improperly constituted.

In presenting the motion, Grant B. Cooper, chief counsel for the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant who is accused of killing Senator Robert F. Kennedy last June, attacked the constitutionality of the California grand jury system.

In this state, Superior Court judges nominate people to serve on panels from which grand juries are drawn. Each Superior Court judge in Los Angeles County, for instance, may nominate two persons for the prospective grand jury panel. The final panel of 23 jurors is then chosen by lot.

Judges Are Subpoened

To support their charges that such a system did not produce a jury composed of a broad cross-section of the community, the defense attorneys subpoenaed all the county's Superior Court judges to testify as to their methods of selecting grand jury nominees. The judges were ordered to report Monday to the heavily guarded eighth-floor courtroom where Sirhan is being tried.

However, if they chose not to appear, the judges were given the alternative of filling out a 10-page questionnaire that seeks to determine whether there was any discrimination by age, race, economic status or geography in their approaches to the nominations.

Twenty-six of the 133 judges upon whom the defense had intended to serve subpoenas were found to be ill, retired, deceased or moved out of the county.

By this afternoon, two judges had indicated that they would prefer to testify in person. They will appear in court tomorrow, as will Jury Commissioner William Goodwin.

Grand Jury Defended

In an interview after court was recessed until tomorrow, Lynn D. Compton, chief deputy district attorney, indicated that he felt the Sirhan grand jury had represented a cross-section of the community. On the 23-member jury, he said, were two Negroes, one Mexican-American and ~~one Arab~~.

Contend Indictment Should Be Set Aside Because Panel Was Improperly Drawn

As court opened today, Mr. Compton opposed the motion to quash the indictment. He argued that "even stipulating the validity" of the evidence the defense was prepared to offer, "it really is irrelevant to this case."

Contending that there must be some allegation that a jury otherwise constituted would not have returned the same indictment, Mr. Compton said:

~~"I will submit that, no mat-~~

ter how a grand jury was constituted in this case, coupled with the admission that this man fired the shot, that nothing but an indictment could have resulted."

In turn, Mr. Cooper declared: "Our contention is that the system itself has the effect of being discriminating."

In the view of the defense, he added, "this is a question of constitutional dimensions."

Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker, who is presiding at the trial, denied the prosecution move to shut off the argument, permitting the defense to go ahead with its testimony.

Robert E. Schultz, a professor in the Department of Finance at the University of California, was then called to the witness stand as an expert on sociological demography. Mr. Schultz made a study of the persons nominated for possible grand jury duty last year.

Under questioning by Mr. Cooper, he testified, with the aid of four maps, that his study had shown that those on the

jury panel did not proportionately represent young adults, Negroes, the working class, lower economic groups or those with less than a college education.

For instance, using 1960 Census Bureau figures for comparison, Mr. Schultz said that 30 per cent of the members of the jury panel could be classified as professional or technical workers, while only 14 per cent of the county's population fell into that category.

Most observers at the Hall of Justice here do not expect Judge Walker to uphold the defense motion to quash the indictment. In fact, the defense attorneys are known to be mainly interested in getting the challenge

on the record, providing them with another possible point of appeal should Sirhan be convicted of first-degree murder.

The motion was first presented before jury selection began, but both sides agreed at that time to postpone argument on it until the defense had time to gather more evidence.

Now, with the main body of 12 jurors seated, no action is expected on the choice of six alternate jurors until the evidence is on the motion to quash the indictment, and Judge Walker rules upon it.

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Case Most Unusual

Sirhan Trial Delay Is Typical

By RICHARD STARNES

Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 29 — The slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was not a typical crime in the epidemic of wrongdoing that is lacerating the nation, and defendant Sirhan B. Sirhan is no common hoodlum.

But the glacial pace of the trial of Mr. Sirhan is wholly characteristic of the plodding deliberation with which criminal justice is dispensed in the United States.

Grant B. Cooper, the soft-spoken and courtly chief defense counsel for the accused assassin, has conceded in open court that his moody, whey-faced client fired the shot that took the life of Sen. Kennedy last June 5. But the trial of Mr. Sirhan promises to last at least another three months.

Mr. Sirhan was arraigned and pled not guilty last Aug. 2. Trial was set for Nov. 1 and was postponed twice. It started in the heavily guarded superior court of Judge Herbert V. Walker Jan. 7. Three weeks later the jury has not been finally selected.

MORE PRELIMINARIES

Today, as the lead-footed proceedings resume after a four-day recess, there were still two time-consuming preliminaries impeding the actual trial. Altho eight men and four women have tentatively been seated as jurors, six alternates remain to be selected. Since neither prosecution nor defense has exhausted peremptory challenges, choosing the six alternates could drag on for the rest of the week.

Mr. Cooper said he would subpoena more than 100 Los Angeles County judges to support his plea to quash the indictment — a plea observers felt was a doomed ploy intended only to lay the groundwork for an appeal if Mr. Sirhan is convicted.

There is also one more motion to be argued. Mr. Cooper and his two assistants today will seek dismissal of Mr. Sirhan's indictment on the ground that the grand jury that returned it did not represent a fair cross section of the community. Substantially the same argument was used in an earlier motion to dismiss the petit jury panel,

and was rejected by Judge Walker. (It was renewed the next day, and was again rejected, but not until the 69-year-old trial judge had patiently listened to additional arguments from Mr. Cooper.)

While California's far-out murder trial procedure is undoubtedly contributing to the delay in Mr. Sirhan's trial, delay for delay's sake is a time-honored weapon in the U.S. trial attorney's armory. In California trials that result in a verdict of first-degree murder, the trial jury must then listen to additional evidence in mitigation or in aggravation of sentence and then must decide between life imprisonment or death in the gas chamber.

The "penalty" verdict must be unanimous, just as the guilty-not-guilty verdict must be. This doubles the possibility of a hung jury and of a mistrial, and it led to this exchange between Mr. Cooper and a reporter during a courthouse corridor interview:

What happens, Mr. Cooper was asked, if the jury agrees on a first-degree guilty verdict but can't agree when it later must decide on penalty?

"It means," Mr. Cooper replied cheerfully, "that a whole new jury must be selected to fix the penalty. And since the new jury has not heard any of the evidence, practically everything can be reintroduced — not just evidence in mitigation or aggravation."

NATIONAL TREND

California, however, has no monopoly on endless criminal trials. At the beginning of the current fiscal year there were 14,763 criminal cases pending in Federal District courts, of which nearly 2,000 had been hanging fire for more than two years, 2,055 had been in litigation more than a year and 2,408 had been pending more than six months.

Judge Walker, who is presiding over the Sirhan trial, is due to retire in June. He has sat on more than 100 murder cases, of which 18 resulted in death penalties. One of these was the celebrated trial of sex offender Caryl Chessman, who went to California's gas chamber in 1960 — more than 12 years after his arrest and indictment.

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Around the Nation

Dozen Sirhan Jurors Seated, But Any Can Be Challenged

LOS ANGELES—Two new jurors were tentatively seated yesterday in the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

This brought to 12—three women and nine men—the number who were seated tentatively in the jury box.

However, any of the 12 could be excused on a preemptory challenge from the prosecution or the defense. It appears likely that the defense, at least, will use all its 20 preemptory challenges and hence the selection of 12 jurors and six alternates could take another two weeks.

Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker has told jury candidates the trial may last "three or more months."

6 Jurors Accepted

NEW ORLEANS—The fifth and sixth jurors acceptable to the defense and the prosecution were selected in the Clay Shaw conspiracy trial.

The slow pace indicated that the case District Attorney Jim Garrison is bringing against Shaw and the Warren Commission will not begin until next week at the earliest.

Garrison has charged that Shaw, a 55-year-old retired businessman, plotted the assassination of President Kennedy with two men now dead—pilot David Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald, who the Warren report says committed the murder alone and unaided.

The prosecution subpoenaed three more persons yesterday. Among them was Dr. Robert R. Shaw of Dallas, who attended Gov. John Connally of Texas, who was riding with President Kennedy and was wounded.

Addenda

Church to Rescue

RALEIGH, N.C. — The United Church of Christ will come to the defense of Marie Hill, a 17-year-old Negro girl sentenced to die in the North Carolina gas chamber for murder and robbery.

The church also announced that it would intervene to block the execution of an Indian youth in South Dakota as part of a new "Crusade for Justice."

• David Stein, a British

artist who made more than \$165,000 painting art forgeries—some of which he sold with the paint "barely dry"—was sentenced to serve 2½ to 5 years in New York state prison.

• Dr. Carl Coppolino, acquitted in a 1966 murder trial in New Jersey but later convicted of another killing in Florida, lost his license to practice in New Jersey. He now is serving a sentence in a Florida prison.

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SIRHAN 1/24 NX
 BY KATHLEEN NEUMEYER

LOS ANGELES (UPI)--SIRHAN B. SIRHAN, WHO HAS REMAINED RELATIVELY UNMOVED DURING THE LONG PERIODS OF HAGGLING OVER A JURY WHICH WILL TRY HIM FOR THE MURDER OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, CHUCKLED THURSDAY WHEN KENNEDY'S SLAYING WAS DESCRIBED AS "A POLITICAL ASSASSINATION."

THE ONE-TIME RACETRACK EXERCISE BOY CHARGED WITH GUNNING DOWN THE PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANT, LEANED OVER TO WHISPER ANIMATEDLY WITH HIS LAWYERS, APPARENTLY AMUSED BY THE REMARK BY DEP. DIST. ATTY. DAVID FITTS, WHO SAID "MOST PEOPLE HAVE HEARD OF THIS CASE AND KNOW OR BELIEVE IT WAS A POLITICAL ASSASSINATION."

FITTS JOUSTED WITH CHIEF DEFENSE ATTORNEY GRANT B. COOPER OVER COOPER'S ASKING A PROSPECTIVE PANELIST IF SHE WOULD "LEAN" TOWARD THE DEATH PENALTY IF CONVINCED SIRHAN KILLED KENNEDY "DELIBERATELY, WILLFULLY AND PREMEDITATEDLY."

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE HERBERT V. WALKER SUSTAINED FITTS' CONTENTION THAT COOPER COULD INQUIRE ABOUT THE JUROR'S VIEWS ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN GENERAL, BUT COULD NOT ASK WHAT PENALTY SHE FAVORED IN THE SIRHAN CASE BEFORE SHE HAD HEARD ANY EVIDENCE.

COOPER SAID, "I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PLUMB THE DEPTHS OF A JUROR'S MIND WITHOUT ASKING THESE QUESTIONS," BUT REPHRASED IT TO ASK MRS. IRMA O. MARTINEZ IF SHE WOULD BE PREDISPOSED TO THE DEATH PENALTY IF "JOHN DOE" WERE CHARGED WITH MURDER.

SHE WAS TENTATIVELY ACCEPTED AFTER SHE REPLIED, "I CAN'T MAKE A DECISION WITHOUT KNOWING THE FACTS IN THE SPECIFIC CASE."

THE DEFENSE USED ITS FIFTH PEREMPTORY TO EXCLUDE MISS CAROLYN FREEMAN, A BLONDE TELEPHONE COMPANY WORKER, WHO SAID SHE FAVORED THE DEATH PENALTY IN FIRST DEGREE MURDER CASES, AND THE PROSECUTION EXERCISED ITS 6TH PEREMPTORY AGAINST JAMES B. AVERY, A MAIL CARRIER.

MRS. PATRICIA ANDERSON WAS EXCUSED AFTER SHE SAID THE LONG JURY SERVICE WOULD INCONVENIENCE THE BANK WHERE SHE WAS EMPLOYED.

HER EXCLUSION FOR CAUSE, A DAY AFTER SHE WAS TENTATIVELY SEATED, ENDED A DEFENSE HEADACHE ON HOW TO GET RID OF MRS. ANDERSON, WHO HAD EXPRESSED A PREDILECTION TOWARD THE DEATH PENALTY DURING SECRET QUESTIONING IN CHAMBERS.

THE DEFENSE HAD SOUGHT TO DISMISS HER ON LEGAL GROUNDS BUT WALKER DENIED THE MOTION. AFTER A CONFERENCE IN CHAMBERS THURSDAY, MRS. ANDERSON TOLD THE COURT HER EMPLOYER SAID "MY JOB IS NOT IN JEOPARDY BUT MY ABSENCE WOULD BE A HARDSHIP TO THEM."

MRS. MARY LOU BUSBY, A SANDY-HAIRED SCHOOLTEACHER REPLACED MISS FREEMAN AND ALBERT N. FREDERICO, WHO WAS BEING QUESTIONED WHEN COURT ADJOURNED FOR THE DAY, FILLED AVERY'S SEAT.

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DATED 1-24-69

FROM Wash. Post Times Herald

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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SIRHAN 1/23 NX
 BY KATHLEEN NEUMEYER

LOS ANGELES (UPI)--NINE MEN AND THREE WOMEN WERE SEATED IN THE JURY BOX TODAY IN THE TRIAL OF SIRHAN B. SIRHAN, BUT IT WAS POSSIBLE NONE WOULD TRY THE 24-YEAR-OLD ARAB IMMIGRANT FOR THE MURDER OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

IT APPEARED LIKELY THE DEFENSE WOULD USE ALL ITS 20 PEREMPTORY CHALLENGES AND SELECTION OF 12 JURORS AND SIX ALTERNATES COULD TAKE ANOTHER TWO WEEKS.

THE DEFENSE WAS ALMOST CERTAIN TO USE A PEREMPTORY AGAINST MRS. PATRICIA ANDERSON, A BRUNETTE EMPLOYEE OF SECURITY PACIFIC NATIONAL BANK. SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE HBERT V. WALKER DENIED A DEFENSE MOTION WEDNESDAY TO EXCLUDE MRS. ANDERSON ON LEGAL GROUNDS BECAUSE OF TESTIMONY SHE GAVE IN CHAMBERS, WHICH WAS NOT DISCLOSED IN OPEN COURT.

IT WAS BELIEVED THE CHALLENGE HAD TO DO WITH MRS. ANDERSON'S VIEWS ON THE DEATH PENALTY, EXPRESSED PRIVATELY TO THE JUDGE AND ATTORNEYS. STILL BEING QUESTIONED WHEN COURT ADJOURNED WEDNESDAY WAS RONALD G. EVANS, A TELEPHONE COMPANY EMPLOYEE WHO HAD NOT YET BEEN PASSED BY THE DEFENSE OR THE PROSECUTION.

THE STRAIN OF THE TEDIOUS, REPETITIVE QUESTIONING OF JURORS WAS TAKING ITS TOLL ON THE DEFENDANT, WHO APPEARED PALLID AND BROODING IN SHARP CONTRAST TO HIS HIGH SPIRITS DURING PREVIOUS PROCEEDINGS.

SIRHAN LISTENED CLOSELY AS HIS ATTORNEYS INTERROGATED PROSPECTIVE PANELISTS, DARTING FREQUENT, UNSMILINGLY GLANCES AT HIS MOTHER, MARY, AND YOUNGER BROTHER, MUNIR, SEATED IN THE REAR OF THE COURTROOM. HE FIDGETED AND CHEWED HIS NAILS.

MRS. SIRHAN BROUGHT A BOOK FOR HER SON, "THE DECADENCY OF JUDAISM IN OUR TIME," BY MOSHE MENUHIN, BUT A COURT OFFICIAL RETURNED IT AFTER THE NOON RECESS, TELLING HER, "HE ALREADY HAS THIS ONE."

EVEN CHIEF DEFENSE COUNSEL GRANT B. COOPER SUFFERED FROM THE MONOTONY. JUDGE WALKER HAD TO TELL THE ATTORNEY TWICE TO BEGIN QUESTIONING A PROSPECTIVE JUROR.

COOPER APOLOGIZED, "I MUST HAVE BEEN WOOLGATHERING, YOUR HONOR." BY WEDNESDAY, THE PROSECUTION AND THE DEFENSE HAD USED NINE OF THEIR COMBINED 40 PEREMPTORY CHALLENGES TO ELIMINATE JURORS. THREE OTHERS HAD BEEN DISMISSED FOR CAUSE AND 27 BECAUSE SERVICE ON THE PROLONGED CASE WOULD BE A PERSONAL HARDSHIP.

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46 JAN 28 1969

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Wash. Post & Times Herald

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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3 Women Dropped From Sirhan Panel

By THEO WILSON

Staff Correspondents of THE NEWS

Los Angeles, Jan. 22—Defense Attorney Emile Zola Berman walked down the corridor today where reporters and spectators line up to be frisked for the Sirhan Sirhan trial and saw two college kids sitting on the floor, drinking coffee.

Berman stared and said, tongue in cheek:

"What's it, are we being picketed?"

What the college kids, who were there to attend the trial, saw today probably was interesting but not very understandable to them.



Emile Zola
Berman

The prosecutors used peremptory challenges to get grandmotherly types—a widowed nurse was the first prospective juror seated last week, and a retired antique shop owner who said she once served

on a murder jury which acquitted the defendant.

Sirhan is accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in June.

Another Is dropped

Sirhan's defense lawyers bumped out a telephone company service representative.

It was presumed the defense thought she was too "establishment" for their purposes. They are looking for jurors who can identify with Sirhan as an underdog. They also want jurors who are educated enough to grasp about Sirhan's state of mind when he allegedly killed Kennedy.

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5 Prospective Jurors Excused in Sirhan Case

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 22— that it intends to press for the death penalty against Sirhan today for the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. The 24-year-old Jordanian's lawyers spent only two of their peremptory challenges today, unseating one woman for undisclosed remarks made in Judge Herbert V. Walker's private chambers and another woman that defense investigators had said they were uneasy about.

Five prospective jurors were eliminated as both sides stepped up their use of peremptory challenges—the slow but final phase of the selection process.

Among those unseated by the prosecution was a widowed nurse, with a son about Sirhan's age, who had wavered under questioning last week when she was asked about sending the young Arab immigrant to the gas chamber.

Deputy District Attorney John E. Howard and David N. Fitts also eliminated two other panelists, including a retired sales manager's wife who had voted down a first-degree murder charge in another case when she served as a juror.

The State has served notice

Chief defense counsel Grant B. Cooper also tried to challenge "for cause" Patricia Anderson, a bank employee who had indicated in questioning before Judge Walker that she would lean toward the death penalty for Sirhan if he should be convicted of premeditated, first-degree murder.

Judge Walker denied the request. Mrs. Anderson reportedly said she might change her stance if the defense produced mitigating evidence at the second, "penalty" trial requisite in California for first-degree murder cases.

Her answers were elicited at the secret session held with each prospective juror in Judge Walker's chambers. Before this, questioning about the death penalty has been conducted only in open court, with the private session reserved for such issues as politics and exposure to "prejudicial publicity."

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Sirhan Counsel Accepts

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 16—A balding Jewish clothier was tapped today as a prospective juror for Sirhan B. Sirhan's murder trial, raising the religious issue in court for the first time.

His answers apparently satisfied defense attorneys for the young Palestinian Arab accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Benjamin Glick, the proprietor of a ready-to-wear clothing business who moved here from New York five years ago, was added to the still tentative jury panel after questioning both in the courtroom and at a closed session in Judge Herbert V. Walker's private chambers. He was said not to be active in any Jewish or Zionist organizations.

For the trial, Sirhan's defense attorneys intend to stress the theme that the 24-year-old immigrant was so obsessed by the Arab-Israeli conflict and so enraged by Kennedy's advocacy of U.S. aid to Israel that he was incapable of calculating, ~~first degree murder~~. They do not deny he shot Kennedy, however.

Glick told chief defense counsel Grant B. Cooper that he knew of nothing in his "religious background or training or belief" that would make it difficult for him to sit in judgment of Sirhan. He said firmly that he felt he could give the young Arab a fair trial.

Besides Glick, two others were added today to the prospective jury panel, making a total of 10 since questioning started Monday. They included the attractive young wife of a Glendale mortician, Mrs. Sharon A. Engle, and a long-time employe of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Gilbert V. Grace.

The prosecution opened today's session with one protest after another in an effort to dump another prospective woman juror who said yesterday she was flatly opposed to sending Sirhan to the gas chamber.

Jewish Juror

~~Deputy District Attorney~~ John E. Howard told news-~~men that to keep her on the jury could conceivably "slow~~ down, if not eliminate, death penalties" in California.

Judge Walker withheld any final ruling on the juror, Mrs. Alvina N. Alvidrez. But he made it plain that his inclination was to reject the prosecution's demand to keep her off the Sirhan jury "for cause."

Mrs. Alvidrez, the 21st prospective juror called for questioning, set the stage Wednesday when she told the court that she could render a fair verdict on Sirhan's guilt or innocence, but that she could never send him or anyone else to the gas chamber.

"A guilty verdict, yes," she said. "The death penalty, no . . . under no circumstances whatsoever."

The prosecution could still dismiss Mrs. Alvidrez with a peremptory challenge if they lose their bid to have her dismissed for cause. But Howard said he feared that to do this might pave the way for a charge by Sirhan's attorneys that there had been a "systematic exclusion" of individuals opposed to the death penalty.

~~To keep her on the jury,~~ Howard went on, would raise prospects of a hung jury unable to choose between life imprisonment and the gas chamber.

Under California law, a separate trial is held to determine the penalty in first-degree murder cases. The same jurors usually fix the punishment, but a separate jury can be appointed "for good cause."

But this, Howard maintained, would, in effect, require the case to be tried all over again and quite possibly before a "truly death-oriented jury" that might produce fresh fair-trial problems.

The legal headaches stem from the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling last year in

~~Witherspoon vs. Illinois~~ and other cases, including a subsequent decision by the California Supreme Court.

In Witherspoon, the U.S. Supreme Court held that prospective jurors could not be dismissed for cause simply because they had conscientious objections to the death penalty.

Mrs. Alvidrez' declarations, however, raise new problems, thanks in part to California's two-act murder trials.

Judge Walker hinted that he might try to resolve the issue—if Mrs. Alvidrez is seated—by appointing an alternate juror to take her place for the penalty trial. Sirhan's chief defense counsel, Grant B. Cooper, has indicated that he would press for appointment of an entirely new jury where similar issues about the death ~~penalty could be raised~~ all over again.

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The Washington Post Times Herald A-3
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JAN 17 1969

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Scattered

Death-Penalty Foe Snags Sirhan Trial

By George Lardner Jr.,
 Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 16 — The prosecution unloaded one protest after another today in an effort to dump a prospective woman juror flatly opposed to sending Sirhan B. Sirhan to his death.

Deputy District Attorney John E. Howard told newsmen that to keep her on the jury could conceivably "slow down" if not eliminate death penalties in California.

The 24-year-old Sirhan could face the gas chamber if convicted of first-degree murder in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker withheld any final ruling on the juror, Mrs. Alvina N. Alvidrez. But he made it plain that his inclination was to reject the prosecution's effort to keep her off the Sirhan jury "for cause."

Mrs. Alvidrez, the 21st prospective juror called for questioning, set the stage Wednesday when she told the court that she could render a fair verdict on Sirhan's guilt or innocence, but that she could never send him or anyone else to the gas chamber.

"A guilty verdict, yes," she said. "The death penalty, no."

under no circumstances whatsoever."

The prosecution could still dismiss Mrs. Alvidrez with a peremptory challenge if they lose their bid to have her dismissed for cause. But Howard said he feared that to do this might pave the way for a charge by Sirhan's attorneys that there had been a "systematic exclusion" of individuals opposed to the death penalty.

To keep her on the jury, Howard went on, would raise prospects of a hung jury unable to choose between life imprisonment and the gas chamber.

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But this, Howard maintained, would, in effect, require the case to be tried all over again and quite possibly before a "truly death-oriented jury" that might produce fresh fair-trial problems.

The legal headaches stem from the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling last year in Witherspoon vs. Illinois and other cases, including a subsequent decision by the California Supreme Court.

In Witherspoon, the U.S. Supreme Court held that prospective jurors could not be dismissed for cause simply because they had conscientious objections to the death penalty.

Mrs. Alvidrez' declarations, however, raise new problems, thanks in part to California's two-act murder trials.

Judge Walker hinted that he might try to resolve the issue if Mrs. Alvidrez is seated by appointing an alternate juror to take her place for the penalty trial. Sirhan's chief defense counsel, Grant B. Cooper, has indicated that he would press for appointment of an entirely new jury where similar issues about the death penalty could be raised all over again.

For the moment, the judge took the arguments under advisement and proceeded with questioning of other prospective jurors. The eighth, Sharon A. Engle, the young wife of a Glendale mortician, was provisionally approved.

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 The Washington Daily News _____
 The Evening Star (Washington) _____
 The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
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 The National Observer _____
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Date 1-17-69

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SIRHAN 1/17 NX
BY JACK V. FOX

LOS ANGELES (UPI)-- JURY SELECTION WAS SPEEDING UP IN THE MURDER TRIAL OF SIRHAN B. SIRHAN TODAY DESPITE THE CONTROVERSY SPARKED BY A WOMAN WHO SAID SHE IS UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO CAPITAL PUNISHMENT. FIVE WOMEN AND FIVE MEN HAVE BEEN SELECTED TENTATIVELY.

JUDGE HERBERT V. WALKER WAS EXPECTED TO RULE ON WHETHER TO SEAT ANOTHER PROSPECTIVE JUROR. THE WOMAN HARDWARE CLERK WHO SAID SHE COULD UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SENTENCE SIRHAN TO DEATH DESPITE THE DEFENSE ADMISSION HE KILLED ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

ALTHOUGH BOTH SIDES HAVE 20 PEREMPTORY CHALLENGES WHICH THEY CAN USE TO ELIMINATE ANY JUROR THEY WISH, THE TRIAL WAS GOING FASTER THAN ANTICIPATED.

SIRHAN, SMILING AND CHATTING WITH HIS LAWYERS, SEEMED QUITE PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS.

THE 10 TENTATIVELY SELECTED WERE:

MRS. ROSA MOLINA, A WIDOW AND NURSE; MRS. ALICIA DUKE, A DIVORCEE WHO WORKS FOR THE STATE LAND BOARD; MRS. BARBARA COLLINS, A TELEPHONE COMPANY EMPLOYEE; MISS CAROLYN FREEMAN, ANOTHER EMPLOYEE OF THE PHONE COMPANY; LAWRENCE K. MORGAN, A COMPUTER PROGRAMMER FOR IBM.

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191 JAN 21 1969

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FOR MR. TOLSON

LESLIE LANEY, A POST OFFICE SUPERVISOR; ALFONSO GALINDO, A CIVILIAN MECHANIC FOR THE U.S. NAVY; MRS. SHARON ENGLE, ALSO AN IBM EMPLOYEE; BENJAMIN GLICK, OWNER OF A CLOTHING STORE, AND GILBERT F. GRACE, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE LOS ANGELES WATER DEPARTMENT.

AWAITING A COURT RULING WAS MRS. ALVINA ALVIDREZ, A PLEASANT-LOOKING MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN WHO SAID SHE COULD BRING IN A FIRST DEGREE MURDER VERDICT BUT THAT SHE COULD NEVER SEND THE ARAB IMMIGRANT OR ANY OTHER PERSON TO THE GAS CHAMBER.

DEPUTY DIST. ATTORNEYS DAVID FITTS AND JOHN HOWARD ASKED THAT SHE BE DISMISSED BUT WALKER -- TEMPORARILY AT LEAST -- OVERRULED THEIR CHALLENGE.

THE JUDGE INDICATED HE MIGHT PERMIT PERSONS OF HER CONVICTION TO BE SEATED AS ONE OF THE 12 REGULAR JURORS UNTIL A VERDICT IS REACHED. IF IT IS FIRST DEGREE MURDER, WALKER MAY REPLACE SUCH PERSONS UNCHANGEABLY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY WITH ONE OF THE SIX ALTERNATES FOR THE DETERMINATION OF SENTENCE.

HOWARD ARGUED THURSDAY THAT A U.S. SUPREME COURT RULING IN THE 1968 WITHERSPOON CASE, REVERSING A MURDER CONVICTION, HAD RULED THAT A PROSPECTIVE JURY COULD NOT BE AUTOMATICALLY EXCLUDED BECAUSE OF "CONSCIENTIOUS SCRUPLES OR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS" AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY CONTENDED THE RULING DID NOT GO SO FAR AS TO COVER A PERSON WHO SAID HE COULD NOT BRING IN THE DEATH PENALTY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

IT WAS EXPECTED THE STATE MIGHT USE ITS FIRST PEREMPTORY CHALLENGE SOME TIME IN TODAY'S SESSION.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

3 More Women Tentatively OK'd for Sirhan Jury

Selection of Trio Helps
Accelerate Process That
May Require Three Weeks

BY DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writer

Three more women jurors were provisionally accepted Tuesday as jury selection accelerated in the trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused slayer of Robert F. Kennedy.

One woman was provisionally seated Monday.

Activity in the small courtroom of Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker centered on exhaustive and repetitious probing by prosecution and defense attorneys of prospective jurors.

Three of the most important areas of questioning involve the effect of the pretrial publicity on the jurors' opinions on the case, the jurors' views on the death penalty and their attitudes on psychiatry.

Carolyn L. Freeman was tentatively seated on the jury, but not until Grant B. Cooper, chief defense attorney, challenged her on the death penalty.

States Her Views

That was when Miss Freeman, a clerk for Pacific Telephone Co., said that in a case where she was completely convinced that willful, deliberate, premeditated murder had been proved "I think I would lean toward the death penalty."

Under questioning by Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts, Miss Freeman modified her answer, saying that her verdict "would depend on the mental attitude" of the defendant and whether he had been aggravated or provoked into murder.

"Now after all that fol-de-rol," said Cooper, "let me ask you again. If you were totally sure that first-degree had been proved, would you lean toward the death penalty or toward life?"

"I don't lean either way," she answered.

Judge Walker denied Cooper's challenge.

Questioned on Prejudice

Cooper also asked Miss Freeman if she felt any prejudice or disregard for the science of psychiatry and its various diagnostic tools, such as hypnosis, lie-detector tests, sodium pentathol and ink-blot tests.

"No," she replied each time.

She said she could fairly weigh testimony the defense will introduce to show that Sirhan's state of mind before the killing was such as to diminish his responsibility for the killing.

Cooper has said repeatedly that the defense will not deny that Sirhan killed Sen. Kennedy, but that it will show that obsessive thinking and an emotional frame of mind affected his capacity to formulate the specific intent to commit first-degree murder.

For premeditated murder to be proven, the jury must be convinced that both the act of murder and the intent to murder were clearly demonstrated by evidence.

Since the defense has granted the former as an acknowledged fact, it is banking its defense of Sirhan on the hope that the jury will accept their evidence of Sirhan's limited capacity to plan first-degree murder and then find him guilty on a lesser charge.

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Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Bishop _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

II-1 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 1/15/69
Edition: Home
Author: Dave Smith
Editor: Nick B. Williams
Title: Kensalt

Character:

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Classification: 56-156
Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

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Charge Could Be Reduced

The first-degree murder charge could be reduced to second-degree murder, which carries a sentence of five years to life. First-degree murder convictions carry a penalty of life imprisonment or death in the gas chamber.

Following acceptance of Miss Freeman, defense and prosecution attorneys were fairly quick in approving Mrs. Alicia Duke, an accountant for the State Lands Division, and Mrs. Barbara L. Collins, a service representative for Pacific Telephone.

Cooper and Fitts both seemed impressed with Mrs. Duke, who answered questions quickly, in a clear direct tone.

She also provoked some laughter in the courtroom when she told Cooper she had read very little about the Sirhan case because "I don't read either of the Los Angeles newspapers."

"Why?" asked Cooper.

"Because I don't think the two Los Angeles daily papers are very well-written," she explained.

Has Own TV Set

She told Cooper that her reading included the sports section of The Times, "the New York Times when someone hands it to me," and two magazine subscriptions, to Time Magazine and Sports Illustrated.

She does own a television set, she said, but added, "my son is the only one who watches it."

In questioning Mrs. Collins, Fitts asked if she would be inclined to be lenient in her verdict on Sirhan because of his apparent youth.

"Would you give the kid a break just because he's a kid?" Fitts asked.

"No," said Mrs. Collins.

Mrs. Collins also said she believed that the murder of Kennedy made the case no bigger a murder simply because the victim was a prominent political figure.

'Most Difficult' Task

Fitts asked her, as he has each prospective juror, "Could you come down from the jury room and face Sirhan and tell him he must die in the gas chamber?"

"It would be the most difficult thing I've ever had to do," she said, "but I could do it."

Three jurors were excused Tuesday after telling the court they would suffer loss of pay or even their jobs if the trial were to take up the expected two or three months. A fourth was excused after he said the trial would be a personal hardship because of illness in his home.

At a news conference after adjournment, defense attorney Emile Zola Berman of New York said the selection of three jurors in one day made him feel "a lot more sanguine today than when we started," but he estimated that impaneling the jury will still take another 18 days.

After 12 jurors are provisionally seated, both defense and prosecution may exercise 20 peremptory challenges each to dispose of jurors about whom they have doubts.

Political Issue

Asked if the Arab-Israeli political situation was expected to figure in Sirhan's trial, Berman said the defense would not introduce the topic, but that it would figure insofar as it goes to explain Sirhan's motivations.

"We will offer scientific evidence as well as the history, background, and problems of the defendant," Berman said, to support the defense contention that the "intellectual content necessary to a premeditated act is not present in this case. That's going to be our defense."

Berman confirmed that Sirhan has been placed under hypnosis and has been administered the Rorschach (ink-blot) test and the test for the XYY chromosome syndrome.

Plan Uncertain

But he did not say whether these tests would be introduced into evidence.

The XYY syndrome is a recent scientific development by some geneticists who claim that certain males are born with an extra Y chromosome for maleness, and that the presence of this extra chromosome carries with it a tendency to resort to aggressive behavior.



DAILY ROUTINE—Members of Sirhan B. Sirhan's family make their daily trek to court and face bat-

tery of lights and cameras. From left: Adel Sirhan, a brother, Mrs. Sirhan and a second brother, Munir.
Times photo by John Malmin

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Defense Stressing Use of Hypnosis

By JOHN DOUGLAS
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Hypnosis has been used on Sirhan Bishara Sirhan by psychiatrists seeking to determine his mental state at the time he shot Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Use of the hypnosis technique, which was hinted during selection of the jury for the man accused of Kennedy's assassination, was confirmed yesterday by Emile Zola Berman, one of his attorneys.

Berman told a news conference called by defense lawyers following adjournment of court that the psychologists and psychiatrists working with Sirhan had also administered the Roschach or ink-blot test. He declined to discuss the findings, saying he would leave this to the psychiatrists when they testify on Sirhan's behalf.

Each of the four jurors tentatively seated so far was passed by the defense only after he testified he regarded psychiatry as a "true" science and hypnosis and Roschach tests as "valid" tools of that science.

Sirhan was hypnotized in his isolated cell on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice where he has been held since his indictment for Kennedy's slaying, June 7, 1968.

Berman made it clear that the defense would continue to appeal only jurors who accept psychiatry and hypnosis when selection of the jury resumes today.

The New York attorney, who joined Grant B. Cooper and Russell E. Parsons on Sirhan's defense team when the trial opened last week, said he was "sanguine" over success in obtaining tentative jurors reached yesterday.

But, he warned, jury selection still is expected to take "at least 18 more court days." This would mean the actual trial would not get underway until sometime in February.

As Sirhan alternately watched glumly or ignored the proceedings altogether, three jurors, all women, were tentatively accepted yesterday.

They are:

Caroline Freeman, clerk for the Pacific Telephone Company's "Yellow Pages."

Mrs. Alicia Duke, accountant for the State Division of Lands.

Mrs. Barbara Collins, a telephone company service representative.

They joined Mrs. Rose Molina, widowed nurse, bringing the total of jurors tentatively accepted so far to four.

This morning, questioning of Lawrence K. Morgan, International Business Machine computer programmer, will resume.

Morgan is the first male juror to reach the detailed questioning stage. With the exception of one man, George Doudle, who was excused when he testified he did not believe he could try Sirhan's case fairly, all men examined so far have been released either for reasons of health or economic hardship.

Although many business firms make provision for their employees to serve on juries, few are willing to guarantee the job of a man who may be tied up on jury duty from three to four months.

Defense lawyers have refused to comment on their reaction to an all-woman jury, but they are known to be concerned.

For most of yesterday's session Sirhan did not acknowledge the courtroom presence of his mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan, and brothers Adel and Munir (Joe). In all previous days' sessions he

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Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-2 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 1/15/69
Edition: Night Final
Author: John Douglas
Editor: Donald Goodenow
Title: Kensalt

Character:

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Classification: 56-156
Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

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46 FEB 7 1969

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—Herald-Examiner Photo

EMILE ZOLA BERMAN
Tells of hypnosis

has greeted them with a cheery wave.

Yesterday he only glowered at them until near the end of the session when he sheepishly grinned and raised his arm in a half-salute.

Judge Herbert V. Walker, who presides over the trial, yesterday spelled out in detail the accommodations arranged for the jurors when they are "sequestered" (locked up) during the trial. The 12 jurors finally selected, and six alternates, will be kept under guard in a hotel, once they are sworn in.

Walker's explanation came when Delos Bezold, a prospective juror, said he believed being locked in a hotel room for a three-month trial would leave him "climbing the walls."

The judge explained that each juror would have a private room. There will be a special dining room and a "recreation room" for the jurors. They will be permitted to watch and listen to "monitored" television and radio.

He said the jury would be brought to and from court in a chartered bus.

"The Sheriff and I," Walker explained, "have selected the

accommodations with all regard for the personal comfort of the jury."

Walker declines to name the hotel where the jury will be kept. That will be announced only after the final jury is selected and sworn.

When questioning resumes this morning, the defense will continue to seek only those jurors who agree that, if it is proved, they will be willing to accept the defense of so-called diminished capacity.

Berman yesterday termed this the "primary defense" for Sirhan.

He explained that the defense will seek to show that on June 5, 1968, when Sirhan shot the New York Senator in a kitchen off the Ambassador Hotel's Embassy Room, he "did not have the intellectual content necessary for a premeditated act (of murder)."

David N. Fitts, deputy prosecutor, who is handling jury selection for the state, continues to raise the question of the youth of the defendant.

He asked Mrs. Collins if, in view of Sirhan's age—24—she would, "give the kid a break just because he's a kid."

Mrs. Collins, who appears no older than Sirhan, answered with a firm "no."

The jurors tentatively present thus far a study in contrast in age and style.

Mrs. Collins yesterday wore a modish yellow tweed suit and white accessories. Her hair is upswept and she wears "mod" hornrimmed glasses. She speaks in a low voice, and even with a microphone is sometimes difficult to hear.

Mrs. Duke, who clearly considers herself an intellectual, wears her hair in tight ringlets and speaks in a loud, clear voice.

Miss Freeman, who wore a shocking pink dressmaker dress, also wears glasses and speaks clearly.

Mrs. Molina, the oldest juror chosen so far, barely murmurs.

2d Sirhan Juror Tentatively Chosen After a Challenge

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 14 — A young blonde clerk survived a defense challenge to her stand on the death penalty today to become a tentative juror at Sirhan B. Sirhan's assassination trial.

She was only the second of 12 candidates to get that far as defense and prosecuting attorneys slogged through another day of questioning prospective panelists.

Once 12 are singled out, both the prosecution and the defense will have their first opportunity to exercise the "peremptory challenges" that they can use to knock prospective panelists out of the jury box without giving any reasons.

Each side is entitled to 20 peremptory challenges and most, if not all, of the first 12 to get through the challenges "for cause" could be eliminated then.

Miss Carolyn R. Freeman, a clerk with the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co., underwent prolonged questioning by chief defense attorney Grant B. Cooper before being chosen.

In soft, soothing tones, Cooper asked her whether she would "lean toward the death penalty" for a defendant who, she was convinced, was guilty of first-degree murder.

"I think I would," she said. "Yes, I would if I was totally sure."

Cooper demanded that she be dismissed "for cause." But prosecutor David N. Fitts came to her rescue. He asked her whether she would let other factors influence her decision.

In California, a separate trial, though usually before the same jury, is held to choose between life imprisonment and death in first-degree murder cases and mitigating evidence is allowed here as well as at the trial on the murder charge itself.

At length, miss Freeman said her vote would depend on a defendant's mental attitude at the time of the offense. Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker rejected Cooper's challenge and she was added to the tentative panel along with a widowed nurse who passed muster yesterday.

Almost all the other prospective panelists called for questioning were excused after pleading hardship. The trial is expected to last two months once a jury is picked. The jurors will be locked up at night in a hotel where, Walker told them with a smile, "you will have your newspapers cut up in pieces" before being allowed to read them.

"I'll be climbing the wall after two weeks, believe me," one man told the judge.

Other said they were afraid their companies might drop them from their jobs while still others said their employers would pay them only for 20 to 30 days of jury duty. It is too early to tell what the jury's makeup will be but the newsmen, seem to favor women jurors.

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ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY

JORDANIAN APPEARS MOODY AND DEPRESSED

Sirhan Frets as Jury Pick Drags

By RICHARD STARNES

Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 15 — Sirhan B. Sirhan, on trial for slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, seems moody and depressed at California's slow, elaborate ritual of meting out justice.

The young Jordanian wiggled and fretted thru another day of jury picking in Judge Herbert V. Walker's Superior Court yesterday, occasionally flashing a smile at his mother and two brothers, but occupying himself principally by slumping in a chair that seems too large for him and gnawing a knuckle. More and more often he darts stares of evident hostility at reporters who seem to be inspecting him too closely.

Opposing counsel again spent the day plodding thru endlessly repetitive questions addressed to prospective jurors. By the time the fifth session of the trial had, creaked arthritically into the record three more jurors had been tentatively seated. This brings the total to four, which means that if the trial's present pace continues it will be at least 21 more days before 12 jurors and six alternates can be found who are qualified to weigh Mr. Sirhan's fate.

JUDGE EXPLAINS DELAY

Judge Walker, 69, a grandfatherly figure with eyebrows that give every appearance of having been teased, apparently has become sensitive to criticism of the pace of the trial. At one session's opening he chided reporters who ostentatiously consulted their watches to verify that the proceedings were not getting under way until well past 10 a. m. The judge explained—"for the benefit of members of the press who are consulting their watches"—that he had been meeting in

chambers with prosecution and defense attorneys since 9:15.

AMENITIES FOR JURY

Judge Walker told the panel of prospective veniremen he had gone to some pains to make the jury as comfortable as possible. Each will have his own hotel room and there will be a common recreation room "where the jury can watch monitored TV, listen to monitored radio, and read cutup newspapers."

The judge also will permit conjugal visits by the spouses of married jurors on weekends during the trial.

Nevertheless, most of the dozen or so who have been excused from service so far pleaded jury service would be an undue hardship. A rich variety of excuses has been offered. But only one prospective juror told it like it really is:

"I spend four nights a week in hotels already," a go-getting young salesman named Delos Bezole told the court, "and if I were locked up every night for three months in a hotel I'd be climbing the walls."

Grant Cooper, courtly, gray chief defense counsel, told the court "the defense doesn't want a juror who feels like climbing the walls." Assistant Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts agreed and Mr. Bezole scampered happily out of the courtroom.

A lawyer told newsmen the "main posture" of the defense would be that his "diminished capacity" precluded the premeditation necessary for a conviction on first degree murder charges and the death sentence.

The lawyer revealed Sirhan had undergone hypnosis, ink blot tests and other psychological and psychiatric examination by experts which would be introduced as evidence of his lack of "intellectual content."

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People's World _____
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46 JAN 22 1969

59 JAN 23 1969

Tolson ☒
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Mention of Execution Jars Sirhan

By George Lardner Jr.
 Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 13—

The prosecutor looked at the grandmotherly nurse in the jury box and asked her whether she had enough "courage" to send Sirhan B. Sirhan to his death.

"We will ask you—urge you—to send the defendant to the gas chamber," Deputy District Attorney David N. Fitts reminded her.

A few feet away, Sirhan abruptly dropped his hand from his mouth, convulsively turned his head to one side and held it bowed low.

In the jury box, Mrs. Rosa E. Molina stiffened. Fitts pressed for an answer.

"Would you have the courage, he demanded of her, "to come down from the jury room, look at the defendant, Sirhan Sirhan, and say to him, 'You will die in the gas chamber for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy'? Would you have that courage?"

"I don't think so," she said in a high-pitched, quavering voice.

More questioning. Moments later, Mrs. Molina changes her answer. Yes, she said, she could do it after all. The widowed nurse passed the first hurdle as a juror for Sirhan's trial, though she still can be challenged later by either the prosecution or defense.

Jury selection for the trial began on the eighth floor of perhaps for as much as two the Hall of Justice today with months. Several candidates all signs pointing to weeks of today were scratched after frustration before a panel is outlining the hardships of being finally chosen.

The line of questioning by the defense suggested that

the defense suggested that

out in an effort to prove that Sirhan was incapable of premeditated, first-degree murder.

Chief defense attorney Grant B. Cooper, 65, alluded to all three as "diagnostic tools" that might prove useful.

Questioning went slowly. The first man in the jury box was uncomfortably candid. Softly, but in a clear voice, he said he didn't think he could give the youthful Jordan native a fair trial.

Cooper couldn't quite believe what he'd heard. He posed the question again.

"There will be no denial," he explained carefully, "that our client fired the shots that killed Sen. Kennedy."

But, Cooper made plain, the defense has no intention of conceding to the state's charge of first-degree murder. Would Sirhan's admission that he killed the Democratic presidential candidate get in the way of impartially determining the accused assassin's motives and state of mind?

George E. Dowdle, a hort, bespectacled research and development worker at the Aerospace Corp., said that it would. He was dismissed.

"It's going to be a long, hard winter," Cooper said during a recess.

Twelve jurors and six alternates are to be chosen and then locked up at a downtown hotel for the rest of the trial, began on the eighth floor of perhaps for as much as two the Hall of Justice today with months. Several candidates all signs pointing to weeks of today were scratched after frustration before a panel is outlining the hardships of being cut off from their jobs and families.

The Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker cleared the way for jury-picking this morning by rejecting a defense motion

attacking California's system of exempting various professional groups from jury service — such as doctors, nurses and teachers—on request.

Walker said the defense had failed to present any evidence that all such individuals were automatically excluded from jury duty.

The defense, it was evident, also intends to deal gingerly with any Jewish jurors in an effort to weed out any outspoken Zionists among them. Reminding the prospective panelists today that Sirhan is a Palestinian Arab by birth, Cooper indicated that the Arab-Israeli situation will be "one of the issues" at the trial.

During his campaigning,

Kennedy advocated the sale of U.S. jet fighters to Israel. Bitterly critical of Israel, Sirhan, many believe, may have focused his anger on the New York Senator.

The most sensitive questioning was confined to Judge Walker's private office. There each prospective juror will be taken, one by one, to be asked just what they have read about the assassination, whether they voted for Kennedy in California's Democratic primary the day before he was shot down here, and whether they have reached any conclusions about Sirhan's guilt or innocence.

By the end of the day, only Mrs. Molina had gotten through a full round.

The Washington Post Times Herald A-4
 The Washington Daily News _____
 The Evening Star (Washington) _____
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Associated Press

Mother and two brothers (backs to camera) wait outside courtroom where Sirhan B. Sirhan is on trial for his life.

Sirhan Defense Hopes to Settle for Manslaughter Charge

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 12—

Each morning in the weeks ahead, a barrel-chested bailiff will fix his eyes on the Stars and Stripes, clasp a hand over his heart and recite aloud:

"Facing the flag of our country and recognizing the principles for which it stands, Department 107 of the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Los Angeles is now in session."

The judge, with his mammoth white eyebrows and Pickwickian face, settles himself behind a gold-plated microphone.

The defendant is brought in, smiling uneasily, plucking at his tie, rubbing his chin. He looks like a high school student waiting for his first date.

The State of California wants to put him to death.

The indictment against him seems almost unreal: That last June 5, he "did wilfully, unlawfully, feloniously and with malice aforethought murder Robert Francis Kennedy, a human being."

To that, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, has pleaded not guilty. Yet, his lawyers say, he has no intention of denying that he shot down the New York Senator and disenfranchised millions of voters who wanted to put another Kennedy in the White House. The trial will be a quarrel over adverbs.

It will be a long and painful process. Sirhan's chances can only be guessed at. America has never dealt gently with assassins, whatever their motives or state of mind.

The State of New York had a vat of sulfuric acid poured on the electrocuted corpse of President William McKinley's killer, Charles Guiteau, the self-styled "agent of God" who killed President Garfield, barely survived for his hanging; one guard tried to kill him in his cell.

Yet the law, if not society, has become more refined since then. Psychiatry has made its inroads. In California, it can be used both in seeking a verdict less than first-degree murder and, failing that, in pleading for a penalty less than death.

Sirhan's chief defense attorney, Grant B. Cooper, has said the defense is hoping for much more than simply saving Sirhan from the gas chamber at San Quentin. He has hinted that it may try to show Sirhan's mind was so clouded that he was incapable of malice, a move that could reduce the charge to manslaughter, with a maximum of 15 years in prison.

For the moment, the state is just as dedicated to keeping the short, slim Jordanian immigrant alive.

The antiquated, eighth-floor courtroom's windows have been plated with armor. At least 20 sheriff's deputies, most of them in mufti, have been stationed inside the crowded chamber.

Newsmen and spectators are searched and checked for concealed weapons with a metal detector twice a day. Women reporters are taken to a separate room where female deputies ruffle their hair and give them a thorough check. One said she was even required to disrobe.

The trial was to have begun Jan. 7, but the first juror has yet to be picked.

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Kensalt

FILE
6-11-68

The Washington Post Times Herald ☒ A-2
The Washington Daily News ☐
The Evening Star (Washington) ☐
The Sunday Star (Washington) ☐
Daily News (New York) ☐
Sunday News (New York) ☐
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The New Leader ☐
The Wall Street Journal ☐
The National Observer ☐
People's World ☐
Examiner (Washington) ☐

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So far, the sessions have been devoted to a last-minute flurry of defense motions, all of which are expected to be denied. The hearings have been an exercise in slow motion, conducted largely in Judge Herbert V. Walker's private office.

Complicating the proceedings in Defense Attorney Cooper's involvement in a Federal grand jury investigation at the Federal courthouse across the street. The urbane, 65-year-old lawyer reportedly considered withdrawing from Sirhan's defense team, but was urged to stay on to face perhaps the biggest challenge to his reputation for improbable victories.

(At one of the murder trials of Dr. Bernard Finch, Cooper is said to have persuaded the jury not to convict, thanks to his definition

of reasonable doubt. "Reasonable doubt is like love," he said. "You can't define it, but you know when you've got it.")

According to one estimate last fall, Los Angeles County had already spent more than \$285,000 investigating and preparing for the prosecution of Sirhan's case. Some 4300 people have been interviewed in connection with Kennedy's assassination in the Ambassador hotel here minutes after his victory in California's Democratic presidential primary.

Chief Prosecutor Lynn D. Compton, 46, an 18-year veteran of the District Attorney's office, says he expects to call about 80 witnesses, including presumably dozens of those supposed to have seen Sirhan at the Ambassador.

In its effort to prove pre-

meditation, the prosecution is expected to rely heavily on witnesses who saw Sirhan practicing rapid-fire shooting at the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club just two hours before the assassination.

It also has a witness who claims to have seen the young, curly-haired defendant target-shooting "at another time and place" before Kennedy was cut down.

And, finally, it has Sirhan's notebooks containing the injunction: "Kennedy must be assassinated before June 5"—the first anniversary of 1967's Arab-Israeli war.

The defense can be expected to fight hard to keep the notes from being introduced at the trial although Judge Walker has already rejected a move to suppress them as evidence.

Sirhan's lawyers have started to outline their strategy in any detail, but the Arab community here, and across the country, fully expects it to include a sharp attack on Zionism and its role in American politics. There is a widespread assumption that this is what drove Sirhan to the Ambassador.

The close-mouthed Sirhan has yet to say a word beyond what he may have disclosed to his family and his attorneys. "The real story is what's inside his head," one courtroom observer said, and that has yet to be told.

"I think it's right to allow him a chance . . . to get to the bottom of why he did it," said Mae Jackson, a domestic worker from Pasadena who was the first spectator admitted to the courtroom last week. "There's a reason for everything we do, right or wrong."

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UPI-185

(SIRHAN)

LOS ANGELES--A WOMAN WHO SAID SHE WOULD HAVE THE COURAGE TO FACE SIRHAN B. SIRHAN AND TELL HIM HE WOULD "DIE IN THE GAS CHAMBER" WAS TENTATIVELY SELECTED TODAY AS A JUROR IN THE TRIAL FOR THE SLAYING OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

THE ADMISSION WAS MADE AS JURY SELECTION BEGAN AND THE DEFENSE SAID SIRHAN WOULD ADMIT FIRING THE SHOTS THAT KILLED THE PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANT.

CHIEF DEFENSE COUNSEL GRANT B. COOPER HAD SAID IN HIS OPENING REMARKS TO PROSPECTIVE JURORS THAT THERE WOULD BE "NO DENIAL THAT SIRHAN SIRHAN FIRED THE SHOTS THAT KILLED SENATOR KENNEDY AND INJURED OTHERS."

THREE PROSPECTIVE JURORS WERE EXAMINED AND EXCUSED BEFORE MRS. ROSA MOLINA, A NURSE AND WIDOW, WAS QUESTIONED FIRST BY THE DEFENSE AND THEN BY THE PROSECUTION.

THE MOST STARTLING INQUIRY WAS WHEN DEP. DIST. ATTY. DAVID FITTS QUESTIONED MRS. MOLINA ABOUT CAPITAL PUNISHMENT THEN ASKED, WOULD YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO COME DOWN FROM THE JURY ROOM AND SAY, "FOR THE MURDER OF SENATOR KENNEDY YOU DIE IN THE GAS CHAMBER."

AFTER SOME HESITATION, MRS. MOLINA SAID SHE WOULD AND THE PROSECUTION ACCEPTED HER TENTATIVELY AS A JUROR.

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TOP CLIPPING

DATED

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MARKED FILE AND INITIALED

1-14-69
Wash Post Times Herald

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UPI-186

ADD 1 SIRHAN, LOS ANGELES

COOPER HAD QUESTIONED HER ON WHETHER SHE HAD DEEP CONVICTIONS ABOUT CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

"IN THE RECESSES OF YOUR HEART AND MIND, KNOWING WHAT YOU KNOW NOW, DO YOU HAVE A LEANING TOWARD LIFE OR DEATH AS A PROPER PUNISHMENT?" COOPER ASKED. THE WITNESS REPLIED THAT SHE DID NOT.

HE ASKED THEN IF SHE HAD ANY FEELINGS ABOUT THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND SHE RESPONDED THAT SHE DID NOT.

"FITTS THEN TOOK UP THE QUESTIONING AND ASKED WHETHER THE FACT THE VICTIM WAS THE JUNIOR SENATOR FROM NEW YORK AND "A CANDIDATE FOR HIGH OFFICE" WOULD AFFECT HER VERDICT. THE PANELIST SAID IT WOULD NOT.

THE FIRST CLASH IN THE TRIAL CAME WHEN FITTS REFERRED TO THE DEFENSE "STRATEGY" OF CONCEDED THAT SIRHAN DID FIRE THE SHOTS WHICH KILLED KENNEDY.

COOPER REPLIED THAT IT WAS NOT STRATEGY, THAT IT WAS A FACT AND SUPERIOR COURT HERBERT V. WALKER UPHELD HIS OBJECTIONS AND ORDERED THE WORDS STRICKEN.

THE FIRST WITNESS, AEROSPACE WORKER GEORGE E. DOUDLE, WAS EXCUSED FOR CAUSE WHEN HE SAID SIRHAN'S ADMISSION OF PULLING THE TRIGGER WOULD PREVENT HIS CONSIDERING THE CASE WITH AN OPEN MIND.

THE TRIAL WAS RECESSED FOR THE DAY SOON AFTER ACCEPTANCE OF MRS.

MOLINA

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UPI-104

(SIRHAN)

LOS ANGELES--SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE HERBERT V. WALKER TODAY DENIED A MOTION TO QUASH THE MURDER INDICTMENT AGAINST SIRHAN B. SIRHAN ON GROUNDS THE TRIAL JURY PANEL WAS UNCONSTITUTIONALLY SELECTED AND ORDERED THE PICKING OF JURORS TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY.

THE DEFENSE HAD ARGUED THAT LARGE SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION WERE EXCLUDED FROM JURY SERVICE BUT JUDGE WALKER RULED THAT THEY WERE NOT AUTOMATICALLY EXEMPT AND THAT PREVIOUS COURTS HAD UPHELD THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE SYSTEM.

THE OPENING COURT SESSION LASTED ONLY 10 MINUTES AND THEN A RECESS WAS CALLED TO BRING IN THE PROSPECTIVE JURORS FROM WHOSE RANKS 12 REGULAR MEMBERS AND SIX ALTERNATES WILL BE CHOSEN.

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FOR MR. TOLSON

56 JAN 23 1969

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE
2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Radio, TV Men Subpoenaed Over Sirhan Trial Publicity

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Jan. 9 — Process servers armed with blank subpoenas summoned a string of radio and TV newsmen to court today in another move to forestall Sirhan B. Sirhan's assassination trial.

The newsmen were called to testify at a closed hearing in Judge Herbert V. Walker's chambers about publicity devoted in the past week to Chief Defense Attorney Grant B. Cooper's involvement in a Federal grand jury investigation.

Sirhan's team of defense lawyers has been pressing all week for a month-long delay of the trial on this and other grounds, and has just as repeatedly been turned down.

Today's bid evidently fared no better. Judge Walker's ruling, along with all the testimony taken in his chambers, was kept secret, but after the session it was announced that the Court would reconvene on Monday.

Michael A. McCowan, the private detective in charge of investigations for the defense, said he tried to have a subpoena served on every radio and TV station in the Los Angeles area. His process servers marched around town with blank subpoenas, filled in the names of newsmen they could find at the stations, and sent them to court for the day-long session.

They were asked to bring with them records of newscasts in the past few days linking the Sirhan trial to Cooper's problems in Federal court.

Cooper admitted last week that he had lied in Federal court last year during the Friars Club card-cheating trial where he represented one of the defendants. He appeared before a Federal grand jury this week under orders to answer questions about the source of secret Government transcripts that he had in his possession during that trial.

Emile Zola Berman, another of Sirhan's defense lawyers, contends that the publicity about Cooper could only harm Sirhan if his murder trial for the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy goes forward now.

Most of the radio stations apparently complied with the defense request for records of their newscasts although an attorney for CBS, William Hill, called it a "fishing expedition."

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The Washington Post Times Herald A-3
The Washington Daily News _____
The Evening Star (Washington) _____
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New York Post _____
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Sirhan Defense Rebuffed Again

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 8—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's battery of defense attorney's was rebuffed again today in a new effort to win a month's postponement of his assassination trial.

They indicated they would try still again in the morning, citing what they called prejudicial publicity involving chief defense attorney Grant B. Cooper.

Despite this, it appeared likely that the tedious chore of picking a jury, signalling the formal start of the trial, would begin Monday. Judge Herbert V. Walker made plain that he was in no mood to grant anymore lengthy delays.

Sirhan, 24, faces ~~a first-degree murder charge for gunning down Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in the Ambassador Hotel here last June 5.~~ The prosecution had served notice that it intends to press for the death penalty.

The slim, sallow-faced Jordanian maintained the pose of steady gaiety during today's proceedings, waving at one point to his mother in the back of the courtroom.

She put her hand to her mouth, an anguished look on her face, then waved back hesitantly after Sirhan had turned away.

The accused assassin's three defense lawyers, apparently resigned to seeing the trial begin in a few days, appear intent on building a record for appeal if he should be convicted.

Cooper said he expected the jury selection to begin Monday although Judge Walker has yet to rule on a defense motion attacking California's system which automatically exempts doctors, nurses, teachers, druggists and others who ask to be excused as prospective jurors.

Defense attorney Emile Zola Berman said the defense would also present to the court in the morning a "documented" plea for postponement, based on Cooper's involvement in a Federal Grand Jury investigation.

Cooper, 65, appeared before the Grand Jury for more than an hour under a Federal judge's orders to answer questions about secret Government transcripts that came into his hands during the Friars Club

card-cheating trial here. The prominent defense attorney admitted last week that he had lied in court last year about the source of the transcripts.

"It's our feeling that the commencement of the Sirhan trial so soon after all this would be a mistake," Berman told a reporter. "If our sincerity is in doubt, our client really doesn't have a lawyer."

The issue is expected to be taken up Thursday in Judge Walker's chambers.

The Judge will also have to rule by Monday on the defense complaint about the trial jury system. Walker indicated, however, that he would put off till later any decision on a defense motion to quash the murder indictment against Sirhan.

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The Washington Post Times Herald **A-3**
The Washington Daily News _____
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United Press International

Sirhan B. Sirhan, flanked by defense lawyers (from left) Russell Parsons, Emile Zola Berman and Grant B. Cooper.

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 Mr. DeLoach _____
 Mr. Mohr _____
 Mr. Bishop _____
 Mr. Casper _____
 Mr. Callahan _____
 Mr. Conrad _____
 Mr. Felt _____
 Mr. Gale _____
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 Mr. Sullivan _____
 Mr. Tavel _____
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 Miss Holmes _____
 Miss Gandy _____

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Move for Mistrial May Be Made by Sirhan's Attorneys

BY DAVE SMITH

Times Staff Writer

The possibility of motions for a mistrial or a change of venue were raised Wednesday by two defense attorneys for Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

New York lawyer Emile Zola Berman told Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker that the defense would be prepared to present evidence in support of a motion this morning regarding "the saturation of publicity in this area."

During a 10-minute recess, co-counsel Russell B. Parsons said the defense is concerned about both the amount and character of publicity devoted by local news media to the Sirhan case.

Refuses to Answer Directly

Asked if this indicated the defense would seek to move the Sirhan trial elsewhere, Parsons refused to answer directly, but referred to earlier defense statements indicating it was felt that there were few places in the world where the case had not been greatly publicized.

Asked if a motion for mistrial seemed the more likely prospect, Parsons answered, "I would say a motion for mistrial is more likely."

But the specific character of the planned defense motion was discussed in Judge Walker's chambers during a closed meeting that brought Wednesday's court session to a close.

It was expected that after motions are dealt with this morning, the trial will recess until Monday morning, when jury selection will begin.

Court observers felt the prospects were not bright for either possible motion. Judge Walker has declared his impatience to get the trial moving and in denying a continuance Wednesday, cited a long list of delays in the case since the assassination of the New York senator last June.

Big Expense Cited

As to moving the trial to another county, observers cite the enormous expense already incurred and the massive security precautions undertaken to protect the defendant here. The money, manpower and time required to duplicate these precautions elsewhere could weigh heavily against Judge Walker's ruling favorably on a change of venue.

The observers add that Walker, 69, plans to retire in July with the Sirhan trial as the capstone of a career that has made him the dean of criminal judges in Los Angeles County.

Wednesday, only the second day of Sirhan's long-delayed trial, was marked like the first by defense efforts to forestall the immediate opening of the jury selection phase — a process expected to consume three to four weeks.

Defense counsel Grant B. Cooper moved for a 30-day continuance, which he said the defense team needed to compile its evidence in support of other motions left unresolved Wednesday by Judge Walker.

But Judge Walker denied a continuance of that length, and after a closed session in chambers, Co-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-1 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 1/9/69
 Edition: Home
 Author: Dave Smith
 Editor: Nick B. Williams
 Title: Kensalt

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 Submitting Office: Los Angeles

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per said defense and prosecution had agreed to begin questioning prospective jurors Monday.

Cooper suffered heavy going in arguing a series of motions aimed at gaining time. He first reintroduced a motion—denied Tuesday — that separate juries be impaneled—one to determine guilt or innocence, the other to fix the penalty if the 24-year-old Jordanian is convicted.

Cooper cited a pending case before the U.S. Supreme Court on grounds that the single verdict procedure forces a defendant to decide whether to offer mitigating evidence which could reduce the penalty but would also bring the risk of self-incrimination.

Cooper contended that the single verdict procedure poses a dilemma which violates the 5th and 14th Amendments.

Another Rejection

Judge Walker again denied the motion, repeating the opinion he expressed Tuesday — that Cooper could reintroduce the same motion at a later phase of the trial if circumstances warrant.

The judge also pointed out that an earlier defense motion to set aside Sirhan's plea of innocence was no longer required under recent penal code changes. These allow for quashing of an indictment—still another defense motion—even after a plea has been entered.

With Judge Walker's denial of the 30-day continuance plea, the jurist also pointed out that the motion to quash the indictment could be ruled upon at any time in the course of jury selection and that this phase should give the defense ample time to gather its evidence.

The bulk of Wednesday's

court session was taken up with arguments on Cooper's motion to set aside the jury list, which the defense contends does not represent a broad cross-section of the population.

Cooper cited a long list of occupations which are excused from jury duty, including legislators, attorneys and their employees, clergymen, teachers, those in the medical profession and many others.

He then introduced Los Angeles County Jury Commissioner William A. Goodwin as a defense witness, said he had not had adequate time to question Goodwin in advance and asked to recall him later.

Begins Questions

But Judge Walker denied this request and Cooper launched a series of questions designed to support his contention that selection of jurors from voters' lists automatically involves exclusion of broad classes of citizens.

Goodwin testified that the list of jurors for the county's central district, in which the Sirhan case is contained, is drawn up by data processing machines which select every fifth name from every sixth precinct throughout the county.

Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard, cross-examining Goodwin, asked if there was ever any exclusion of prospective jurors on the basis of political belief, race, religion, or occupation.

To each question, Goodwin replied, "No."

Cooper protested that the defense still was not prepared to present its evidence supporting the motions to set aside the

jury list and the indictment.

Judge Walker then ruled that both motions would be held open for later ruling, but that the trial would continue.

Waves to Mother

For the second day of his trial on charges of first-degree murder, Sirhan was quiet but seemed in generally good spirits. Upon entering the courtroom, flanked by two sheriff's deputies, the short, slim defendant waved at his mother and two brothers in the back row.

Once seated, he again turned to his family, smiled broadly and waved again. He held numerous whispered conferences with Parsons, at his immediate right, and followed the courtroom procedure with an alert air.

Sirhan's mother, Mary, 55, in a black and gold dress, sat with two of Sirhan's four brothers, Munir, 21, and Adel, 30, who live in the family home in Pasadena. Two other brothers, Sharif, 37, and Saidallah, 36, who also live in the area, have yet to attend their brother's trial.

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"Kensalt"

A Miscast on History's Stage

By RICHARD STARNES

Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 9 — Whatever else may be said of him by the time his murder trial is concluded, it is already apparent that Sirhan B. Sirhan is woefully miscast as a maker of history whose hand may have changed the course of human events for all time.

Mr. Sirhan, the uneasy and diffident star of the drama that is being so slowly wrought in Superior Court here, is no more convincing in the role than was Lee Harvey Oswald or Jack Ruby. In a school play Mr. Sirhan will always be the kid who held John Wilkes Booth's horse — never Booth himself. In Hamlet, he might have been the luckless Rosencrantz, never the doleful prince.

But here in the courtroom of kindly, confusing Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker, the casting has been done by some mysterious means that no man understands. Mr. Sirhan is the perfect type cast for the kid who helps his pa run a vegetable stand and who talks funny broken English. Yet his hand allegedly held the cheap pistol that took the life of a powerful leader.

RECIPROCAL BEINGS

Sirhan Sirhan and Bobby Kennedy were in a curious way reciprocal beings. Both were short in stature, but the likeness ends there. Bobby was tough, rugged, brash. Shy Sirhan looks as if he would disintegrate in the gust generated by one good sneeze.

Sen. Kennedy worked hard at understanding people like Mr. Sirhan — the put-upon, woe-begone minorities who found such difficulty in sharing America's abundance, the hard-luck cases whose chemistry somehow never found the right catalyst. Robert Kennedy would have had a lot of sympathy for Mr. Sirhan, because Mr. Sirhan is the archetype of the kid who never quite makes it, and Robert Kennedy was always conscious that he had made it partly by the accident of birth into a rich and powerful family.

But however unlikely, the birdlike, pallid Mr. Sirhan thrust himself into the center of history's stage and must now play out the role to its conclusion.

It promises to be an endless performance. Yes-

terday, in the brief afternoon session that marked the second day of the trial, it became clear that chief defense counsel Grant B. Cooper subscribes to the hoary legal bromide that delay is the essence of defense.

Mr. Cooper opened by renewing his plea for two separate juries to hear the case under California's peculiar law that reconvenes the trial jury to fix punishment after a guilty verdict. It was the same motion that Mr. Cooper argued — and lost — Tuesday, and many judges would have quickly and tartly made that observation. But Judge Walker heard Mr. Cooper out and then mildly remarked, "I definitely ruled against that motion yesterday."

Mr. Cooper then sought a 30-day continuance, arguing that he needed the additional time to prepare his plea to quash Mr. Sirhan's first-degree murder indictment. Again the judge showed restraint, merely reading from a long calendar of legal maneuvers and continuances that had been granted since Mr. Sirhan's arraignment last June 28. He denied the continuance but did tell Mr. Cooper he would try to give him enough time to prepare his case.

OBJECTS TO JURY PANEL

Finally, while still insisting he had had insufficient time to prepare, Mr. Cooper called his first witness, Los Angeles jury commissioner William A. Goodwin. In support of his motion to throw out the current panel from which the Sirhan jury will be selected, Mr. Cooper led Mr. Goodwin thru a tedious exposition of Los Angeles' method of picking veniremen. But chief deputy district attorney Lynn D. Compton countered by producing testimony that no prospective jurors are excluded by reason of race, religion, political belief or economic status. Most courtroom observers thought Mr. Compton won the point handily.

Nevertheless, Mr. Cooper seemed determined to wring every possible hour of delay out of the two motions still remaining before the court. The motion to set aside the jury list will be debated, and possibly disposed of, today. Present plans then are to recess the trial until Monday, when the first step in the weeks-long process of selecting jurors will begin.

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 The National Observer _____
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 Holmes ☒
 Gandy ☒

Defense Motions Stall Trial of Sirhan

By George Lardner Jr.
 Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 7 — With a bouncy step and a smile on his face, Sirhan B. Sirhan walked into court here today to go on trial for the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

But a last-minute rash of defense maneuvers kept the trial from getting started.

Sirhan's chief defense attorney, Grant B. Cooper, asked for 30 days to thrash out the motions he filed—including a bid for two separate juries to determine the 24-year-old Jordanian's fate.

Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker, the bushy-browed judge who will preside at the trial, said he hoped the issues could be settled faster than that.

Under California law, a separate trial is held to determine the penalty in first-degree murder cases. The defense wanted one jury to determine Sirhan's guilt or innocence and another, in the event of conviction, to choose between life in prison and the gas chamber at San Quentin. The request was denied, but with the understanding that it could be renewed again later at the conclusion of the first trial.

Dressed in a blue-gray suit

with matching tie, Sirhan sat by his attorneys, occasionally whispering with defense counsel Russell E. Parsons, who had escorted the accused assassin from his isolated, 13th-floor jail cell.

Sirhan's mother, Mary, and his 21-year-old brother, Munir, watched together from the last row of the antiquated courtroom in the Hall of Justice here.

Cooper had indicated that he might seek that flat postponement of the trial because of his own involvement in a Federal Grand Jury investigation.

A pillar of the Los Angeles legal establishment, Cooper admitted to the grand jury last week that he had lied in court last year during the Friars Club card-cheating trial. A transcript of secret testimony before an earlier Federal Grand Jury was found on the defense table at the trial.

Cooper, who represented one of the defendants, subsequently admitted that he had four of the secret transcripts in his possession, but protested that

to have told the truth at the trial, would have pointed a finger at his client.

The Sirhan hearing ended shortly before noon. An hour later, Cooper marched across the street to the Federal Courthouse, where he was ordered to answer about 45 questions before the Grand Jury investigating the leak of transcripts in the Friars Club case.

Would Go To Jail

Cooper has indicated that he would go to jail for contempt if necessary and rely on an appeal, presumably based on the attorney-client privilege of confidential communication.

Prosecutors for Los Angeles District Attorney Evelle J. Younger have voiced fears that Cooper's headaches in Federal Court could cause the assassination trial to misfire. The issue, however, did not come up in open court today although a closed-door conference was held in Judge Walker's chambers for 50 minutes immediately after court convened.

The session opened in a 1925-vintage courtroom, complete with rolltop desk, on the Hall of Justice's eighth floor. A television camera shoved into an old air conditioning unit in the back of the small room sent pictures down four flights to another courtroom set aside for the overflow crowd of newsmen.

Security precautions were so tight that sheriff's deputies were seen frisking one another. Typewriters were banned from the fourth-floor courtroom of the tenuous theory that they might be concealing weapons that could kill via closed-circuit TV.

Request Denied

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Judge Walker withheld rulings on these while denying still another defense request to limit questioning of prospective jurors to written queries. Another hearing was set for Wednesday.

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"The defense," he said, "will be along other lines." These will reportedly include the contention that Sirhan's mental state was of such "diminished responsibility" that he was incapable of com-

mitting premeditated first-degree murder. In this effort, it is expected, the trial could turn into an attack on Zionism and its role in American political life.

The Washington Post Times Herald A-1
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United Press International

Mary Sirhan, mother of Sirhan Sirhan, Jordanian immigrant accused of murder-

ing Sen. Robert Kennedy, arrives for the start of his trial with another son, Munir.



United Press International

Sirhan B. Sirhan is led to courtroom by one of his attorneys, Russell Parsons.

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UPI-162

(SIRHAN)

LOS ANGELES--THE DEFENSE FOR SIRHAN B. SIRHAN ASKED TODAY THAT THE MURDER CHARGE AGAINST HIM BE DROPPED BECAUSE THE JURY WHICH WILL TRY HIM DOES NOT REPRESENT A COMPLETE CROSS-SECTION OF THE LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY AND IS THEREFORE UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

GRANT B. COOPER, CHIEF COUNSEL FOR THE 24-YEAR-OLD ARAB IMMIGRANT ACCUSED OF THE ASSASSINATION OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, OPENED THE SECOND DAY'S SESSION OF THE TRIAL WITH A MOTION TO QUASH THE INDICTMENT.

SIRHAN WAS IN A SMILING MOOD, WAVING AT HIS MOTHER AND TWO BROTHERS IN THE REAR OF THE COURTROOM AS HE ENTERED. DURING ONE BIT OF LIGHT INTERCHANGE BETWEEN THE ATTORNEYS, HE CHUCKLED AND GRINNED BROADLY.

COOPER CONTENDED THAT THE SELECTION OF JURORS IN LOS ANGELES AUTOMATICALLY ELIMINATES CERTAIN GROUPS, INCLUDING DOCTORS, LAWYERS, NURSES AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL CLASSES AND THEREFORE DOES NOT REPRESENT A COMPLETE CROSS-SECTION OF AVAILABLE JURORS.

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UPI-170

ADD SIRHAN, LOS ANGELES (UPI-162)

HE CITED A CASE HEARD BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT ON THOSE GROUNDS. COOPER ALSO FOR THE SECOND TIME ENTERED A MOTION FOR TWO JURIES TO HEAR THE SIRHAN MURDER CASE, ONE FOR THE VERDICT AND ONE FOR THE SENTENCE, AND ONCE AGAIN SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE HERBERT V. WALKER TURNED IT DOWN.

MRS. MARY SIRHAN AND THE DEFENDANT'S TWO BROTHERS, ADEL, 30, AND MUNIR, 21, WERE IN THE REAR ROW OF THE COURTROOM.

EIGHTEEN MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC STOOD IN LINE FOR THE SESSION BUT ONLY FOUR OF THEM HAD BEEN ADMITTED WHEN IT BEGAN AFTER UNDERGOING A THOROUGH SEARCH AND INSPECTION WITH A METAL DETECTOR.

THE FIRST WITNESS CALLED IN THE SIRHAN TRIAL WAS WILLIAM A. GOODWIN, JURY COMMISSIONER FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY, WHO WAS QUESTIONED EXTENSIVELY ABOUT THE METHOD OF SELECTING PEOPLE TO SERVE ON JURIES.

UNDER QUESTIONING BY COOPER, GOODWIN SAID THAT NUMEROUS GROUPS OF PEOPLE COULD BE EXCUSED FROM JURY SERVICE IF THEY HAD CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT OR OCCUPATIONS INCLUDING DOCTORS, LAWYERS, TELEPHONE COMPANY EMPLOYEES, MAIL CARRIERS, DENTISTS, TEACHERS, MINISTERS, UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS.

GOODWIN SAID THAT ANYONE IN THOSE FIELDS COULD SIMPLY SIGN AN AFFIDAVIT AS TO HIS EMPLOYMENT AND MAIL IT IN AND BE AUTOMATICALLY EXCUSED FROM BEING IMPANELED.

THE FIRST PIECE OF EVIDENCE WAS ALSO INTRODUCED AT THE TRIAL. IT WAS A LETTER SENT TO PROSPECTIVE JURORS DIRECTING THEM TO APPEAR AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE FOR POSSIBLE JURY SERVICE.

COOPER'S EXAMINATION OF GOODWIN WAS AN ATTEMPT TO SUPPORT HIS ARGUMENT THAT THE ENTIRE JURY SYSTEM DOES NOT REPRESENT A CROSS SECTION OF THE PUBLIC.

SHORTLY BEFORE GOODWIN TOOK THE STAND, JUDGE WALKER DENIED A FORMAL MOTION BY THE DEFENSE FOR A 30-DAY CONTINUANCE IN THE CASE.

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Defense Moves Delay Trial of Sirhan



United Press International

Sirhan B. Sirhan is led to courtroom by one of his attorneys, Russell Parsons.

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

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Dressed in a blue-gray suit
See SIRHAN, A16, Col. 4

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Defense Moves Stall Sirhan Trial

SIRHAN, From A1

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Mary Sirhan, mother of Sirhan, and Robert Kennedy, arrives for the start of his trial with another son, Munir.

United Press International

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The Trial of Sirhan Sirhan

There is a lot more to any murder trial than merely determining who pulled the trigger and it appears that much of the argument in the case involving the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy will turn on those other factors. Of course the first thing to be established when Sirhan Sirhan goes on trial in Los Angeles, probably today, is whether he fired the gun that snuffed out Senator Kennedy's life. If he did, his mental condition both at the time of the assassination and preceding it becomes relevant to whether he is guilty of the crime of first degree murder, which carries the death penalty in California, or of some lesser crime or, indeed, of no crime at all.

For generations now, the law has said that punishment for a crime will not be imposed on any whose mind was so deranged that he was not mentally responsible for his actions. This, of course, is the insanity defense which has brought about major struggles in recent years as lawyers and judges have attempted to bring the legal definition of insanity into line with modern knowledge of mental illness.

All indications from Los Angeles are that Mr. Sirhan's attorneys do not intend to claim that he was legally insane at the time Mr. Kennedy was shot. But there is a widespread belief there that if the prosecutors can establish Mr. Sirhan fired the fatal shots, his attorneys will attempt to exercise what is called in that State a defense of diminished responsibility. This is simply that while he may not have been mentally ill enough to be considered legally insane he was sufficiently deranged to be unaccountable for all the elements required in a first degree murder case.

Under the law in most states, and California is no exception, a first degree murder conviction requires that the state prove the defendant killed with malice and premeditation. A killing without both may be second degree murder or manslaughter, which carry lesser penalties, but cannot be first degree. Establishing these elements of first degree murder is often difficult for prosecutors except in cold-blooded situations and it may well be difficult in this case.

In any event, it is misleading to think of this kind of defense as no more than a technicality, a matter of legalistic hair-splitting, for both the mental ability and the intent of a murderer to act with malice and premeditation lie at the very roots of Anglo-American law and justice. These are the elements that help the courts distinguish between deliberate and accidental killings, between those done in passion and those done coolly, between those committed by men who are well and by men who are sick.

It may turn out that the capacity of a jury and of the millions of Americans who will await the outcome to make distinctions of this kind will be as much in Los Angeles as Sirhan Sirhan.

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 The National Observer _____
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Sirhan Trial Starts; Three Ways to Go

By JOHN DOUGLAS

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, goes on trial for murder today in a historic case which conceivably could cost him his life, send him to a mental institution, or see him go free.

The charge is that he killed Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in an Ambassador Hotel kitchen early on the morning of June 5, 1968.

Sirhan's will be the first major political assassination trial in this country since Leon Czolgosz was tried for the murder of President William McKinley in Erie County Court at Buffalo, N.Y., in 1902.

Defense counsel are Grant B. Cooper, widely known criminal lawyer; Russell E. Parsons, veteran criminal and appeals lawyer; and New York attorney Emile Zola Berman, known for

his 1956 defense of Marine Sgt. Matthew McKeon in the Camp Lejeune "death march" case.

Opposing this trio is a team from the office of Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger led by Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn Compton. Backstopping Compton are Dep. Dist. Attys. David N. Fitts and John Howard.

First order of business ordered for today by Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker, who will preside, is submission of a number of defense motions.

Cooper and Parsons delivered these to Judge Walker at a pre-trial conference yesterday, but the decision of that conference was that no motion in the trial should be submitted or argued except in open court.

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
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Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-1 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 1/7/69
Edition: Night Final
Author: John Douglas
Editor: Donald Goodenow
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Classification: 56-156
Submitting Office: Los Angeles

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It is understood that in one of the motions the defense seeks copies of the statements taken by the prosecution from its listed preliminary witnesses. That list was furnished Parsons last Oct. 22.

In order for security to be maintained over Sirhan, the conference was held in the temporary 13th floor Hall of Justice courtroom in which nearly all preliminaries in the case have been handled. Today's case will open in Dept. 107—an eighth-floor courtroom in the Hall of Justice which has been armored and sealed within a security perimeter for the young Jordanian's trial.

Newsmen and spectators entering the courtroom will be carefully searched before entering, but prospective jurors will

not, a court attache said yesterday.

He said that no special provisions for selection of the Sirhan jurors had been made. They will be selected from the county's regular jury pool.

Panels of 25 prospective jurors each will be drawn and taken to a waiting room in the old Hall of Records, then transferred to the courtroom when they are needed.

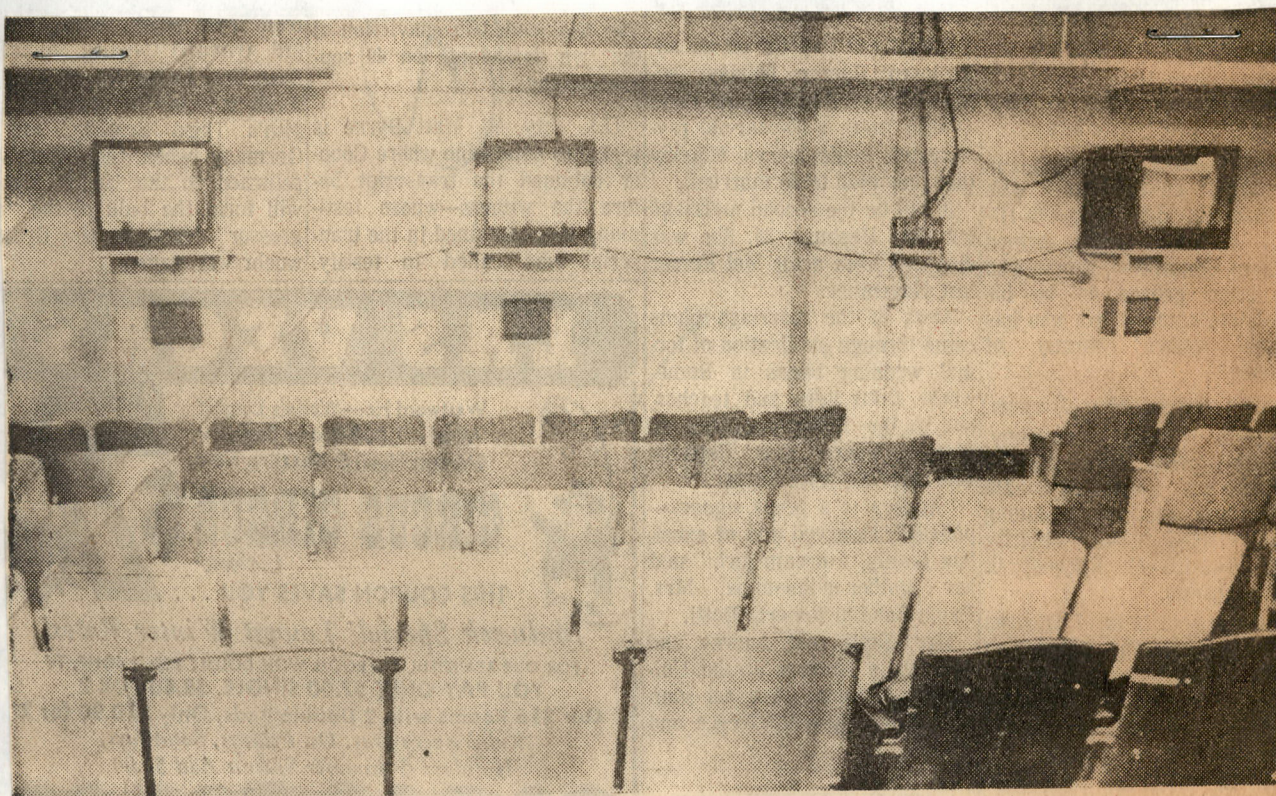
Jury selection which may take as long as three weeks, will follow submission of the defense motions.

Once the jury is selected, it will be "sequestered"—locked up for the duration of the trial.



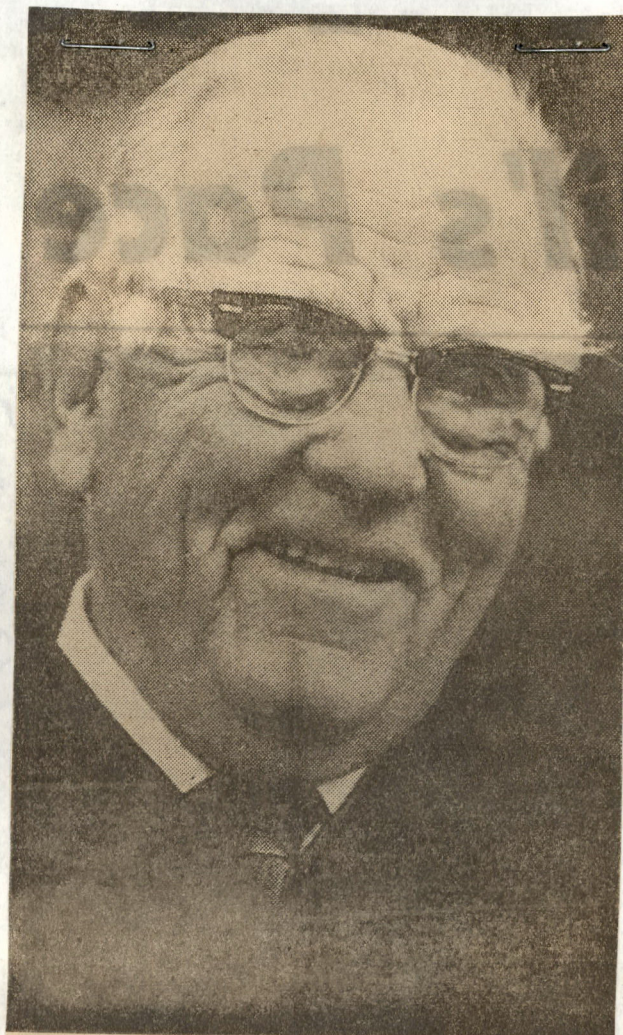
—Herald-Examiner photo

COURT CLERK ALICE NISHIKAWA EYES HIDDEN TV CAMERA
It will survey Sirhan trial from position in air conditioner (arrow).



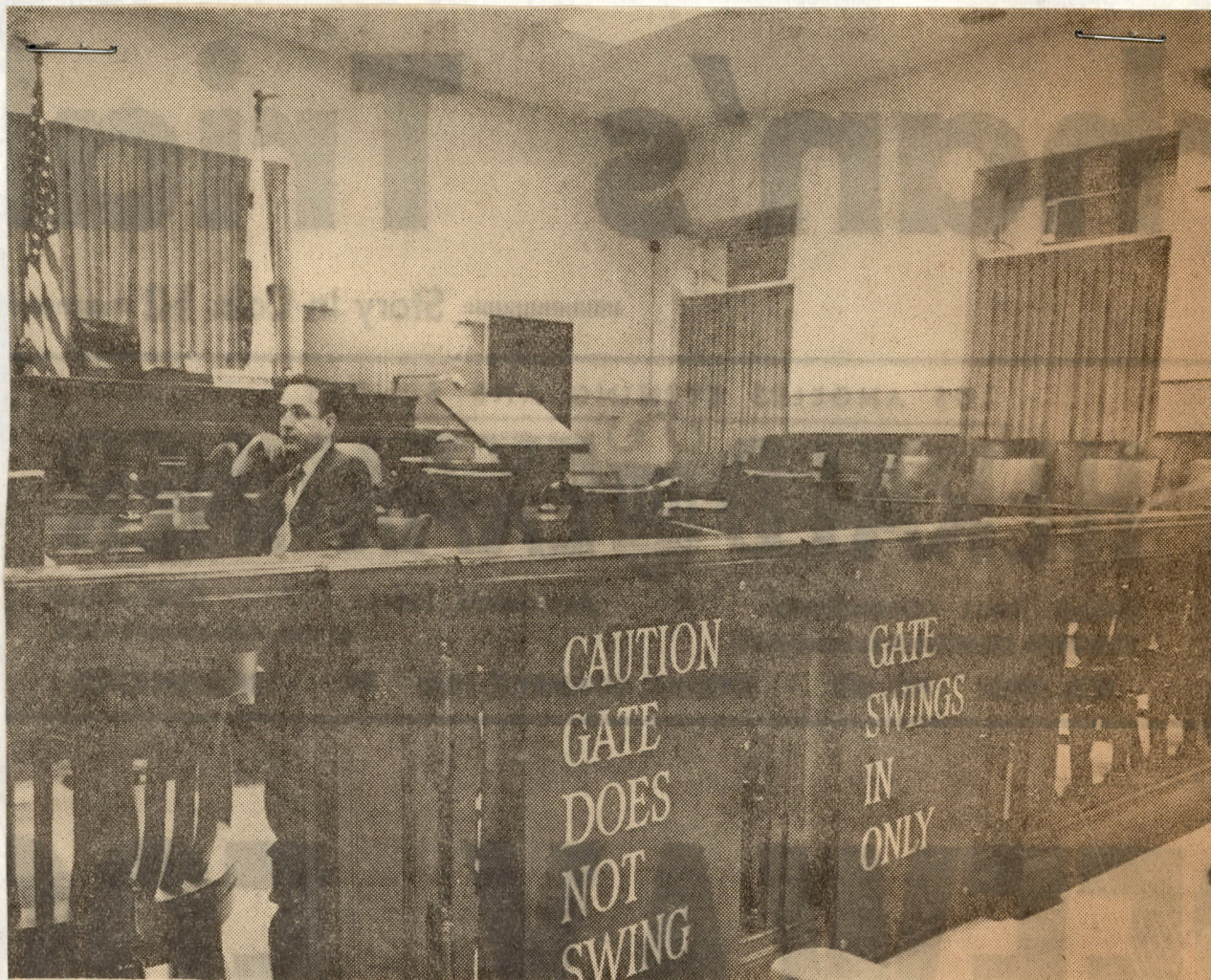
—Herald-Examiner photo

TELEVISION MONITORS IN OVERFLOW PRESS ROOM WILL AID IN TRIAL COVERAGE
Closed-circuit network has been set up in the Hall of Justice Building.



—Herald-Examiner photo

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE HERBERT WALKER
He presides at trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan



SIRHAN WILL BE TRIED IN THIS HEAVILY SECURED COURTROOM
Elaborate precautions for his safety have been taken, including bullet-proofing of the area

—Herald-Examiner photo

ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

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Sirhan Is Denied Delay

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan appeared in court today for the start of his trial on charges of murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, but the session was adjourned until tomorrow after a series of defense motions, one an unsuccessful request for a 30-day delay.

The 24-year-old Jordanian was in court about an hour and a half—part of the time in a closed meeting with attorneys for both sides and Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker.

Walker adjourned the trial to 2 p.m. tomorrow after denying the request for the month's delay and asking that one of the motions be made in writing.

Sirhan appeared calm as the proceedings began. He entered the heavily guarded courtroom wearing a gray suit and blue tie, sat down at the long counsel table and waved to his attorneys. He later was ordered taken back to his cell.

Judge Denies Delay

The move for a 30-day delay came when Grant B. Cooper, one of three defense attorneys, asked that Sirhan's plea of not guilty be set aside "for the sole and only purpose of making a motion to quash the indictment."

Walker asked that the motion be made in writing and Cooper said he would need additional time. "I would suggest a period of 30 days," he said.

The judge denied this, saying "There is a great deal of expense and inconvenience involved. I feel we should move as expeditiously as possible."

Walker also denied a plea for two separate juries, one to determine whether Sirhan is guilty and a second to determine the penalty if he is convicted. Walker said Cooper could make the motion again at the end of the first part of the trial.

Cooper has been ordered to appear this afternoon in U.S. District Court to answer a federal grand jury's questions or show cause why he should not be held in contempt of court.

Cooper could withdraw from the Sirhan case. However, another defense attorney, Rus-

See SIRHAN, Page A-4

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The National Observer _____
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SIRHAN

Trial Delay Motion Denied

Continued From Page A-1
sell Parsons, has said he would not be willing to proceed without Cooper.

Cooper has said that because of the lawyer-client relationship he would refuse to answer grand jury questions on how he came to possess secret transcripts in the Friars' Club card cheating case. His client was one of five convicted of cheating club members.

Defense motions and jury selection are expected to take two weeks and presentation of evidence by both sides two months or more. There are indications that more than 200 witnesses will be called.

Sirhan, a Jordanian who came to this country as a boy with his family, is accused of shooting Kennedy on June 5 in a kitchen corridor of the Ambassador Hotel as the New Yorker left a victory celebration following California's Democratic presidential primary.

Five bystanders were wounded, and Sirhan also is charged with five counts of assault with intent to commit murder.

The trial is being held in a

tiny armor-plated eighth-floor courtroom in the gray-stone, 43-year-old Hall of Justice. Windows have been covered with 1/4-inch sheets of steel. Sirhan, arrested at the shooting scene, is being held in a heavily guarded cell on the 13th floor.

Parsons, a veteran Los Angeles defense lawyer, told newsmen yesterday one tactic he and the two other attorneys for Sirhan may use is to have Sirhan testify. He refused to elaborate.

Judge Walker, 69, decreed the death penalty 21 years ago for Caryl Chessman, convicted kidnap-rape who died in the gas chamber in 1960 after 12 years of appeals.

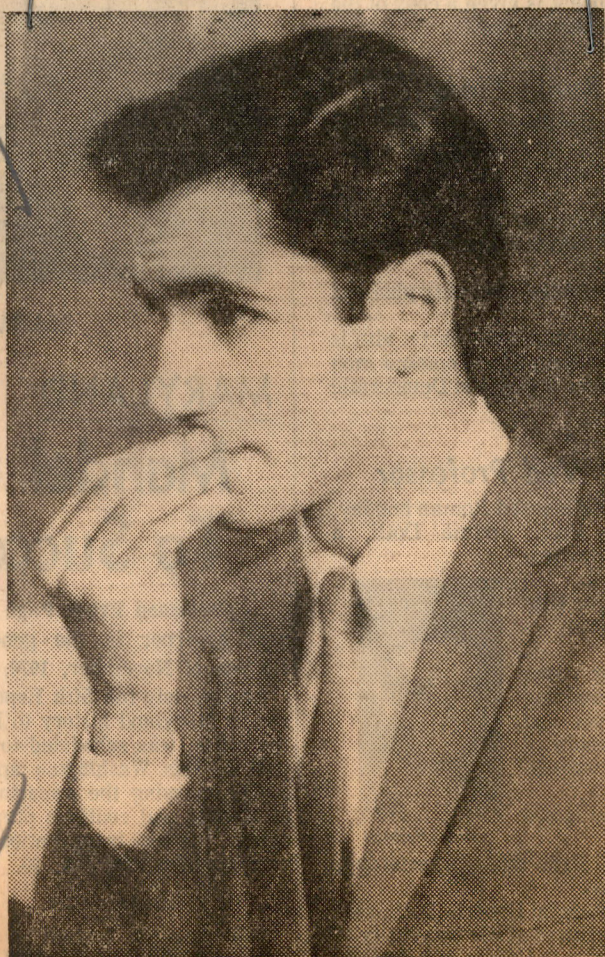
At a preliminary hearing, Sirhan pleaded not guilty but did not enter a separate plea

of not guilty by reason of insanity. This is permissible under California law.



—United Press International

Sirhan Sirhan's mother, Mary, and brother, Munir, at court today.



—Associated Press

Sirhan appears for trial.

Trial of Sirhan Will Open Tomorrow

By DOUGLAS E. KNEELAND
Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 5—Seven months ago today Senator Robert F. Kennedy was shot and fatally wounded in a dingy serving pantry amid the quiet, salmon-pink stucco elegance of the Ambassador Hotel here. His alleged assassin is to go on trial Tuesday.

The 42-year-old New York Democrat, who died about 25 hours later from a .22-caliber bullet wound in the brain, had been leaving the hotel's Embassy Room, where he had flashed his familiar grin and acknowledged to hundreds of cheering followers his victory in the June 4 Democratic primary over Senator Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota.

The California primary was the final and in most assessments the most critical of the series of contests he had entered in his attempt to wrest his party's Presidential nomination from Senator McCarthy and Vice President Humphrey.

With his death at the most hope-filled moment of his struggle to gain the office from which an assassin's bullet not quite five years before had removed his brother, John F. Kennedy, politics lost

its bright edge for countless thousands of Americans.

How much his absence contributed to the Republicans' nomination of Richard M. Nixon, to the divisive party bitterness and bloody street scenes of the Democratic convention in Chicago, and to the acknowledged public apathy toward much of the subsequent campaign between Mr. Nixon and Mr. Humphrey, will be debated for years.

As Mr. Kennedy lay dying on the harsh cement floor after midnight June 5, 1968, a half-dozen of his friends and others in the crowded serving pantry fell upon and held Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, a diminutive 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant from whose hand they had the

a just-emptied eight-shot snubnosed .22-caliber Iver Johnson Cadette Model revolver.

A few minutes later, when the police hustled Sirhan

through the shocked and threatening crowd, other Kennedy men shouted, "Keep him alive! We want him alive!" Even at that moment, the memory persisted of the dark days of Dallas in November, 1963, and the doubts and rumors that have haunted the world since Jack Ruby killed Lee Harvey Oswald.

So for seven months Sirhan has been kept alive, isolated, guarded day and night, in a six-by-eight foot windowless cell on the 13th floor of the 15-story Hall of Justice, a 43-year-old, somber, gray, misfit of a building among its modern neighbors in the Los Angeles Civic Center.

Taken on Elevator

And on Tuesday, shortly before 9:30 A.M., Sirhan is scheduled to be taken on an elevator and then down a hidden flight of stairs to Superior Court Department 107 on the eighth floor of the Hall of Justice to be tried for the first-degree murder of Senator Kennedy and on five counts of assault with intent to kill five other persons wounded as eight shots rang out in the Ambassador's serving pantry.

While a court ban on pretrial publicity has effectively silenced prospective witnesses and attorneys for the prosecution and the defense and apparently diminished public speculation, the opening of the trial is expected to bring a new wave of interest as many Americans attempt to weigh or purge their own guilt in the violent phenomena that have plagued the nation these last few years.

For if Sirhan goes to trial as planned, he will be the first of the accused in the three assassinations that have unnerved the country in the last five years to have reached that point. Oswald was shot down in the Dallas Jail. James Earl Ray, charged with the April murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is still awaiting trial in Memphis.

But even as attorneys on both sides made last-minute preparations, and the massive security forces that will be on duty at the Hall of Justice went through final rehearsals of their roles, some doubts were arising as to whether the Sirhan trial would go ahead on schedule.

The doubts came from a Federal grand jury investigation of the actions in another case of Sirhan's chief defense counsel, Grant B. Cooper, 65-year-old former president of the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

Unauthorized Transcripts

Mr. Cooper, who once served in the District Attorney's office and is considered one of the outstanding criminal defense lawyers in California, admitted to the grand jury Friday that he had had in his possession during his defense of a client in the Friars Club case, a major card-cheating trial here, unauthorized transcripts of four Federal grand jury witnesses. He also admitted that he had lied in court about the source of an unauthorized transcript found in his possession during the trial.

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The National Observer _____
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United States District Judge Francis C. Whelan has ordered Mr. Cooper to appear for a further hearing tomorrow, the eve of the scheduled beginning of the Sirhan trial.

What action, if any, might be taken against Mr. Cooper, and what effect it might have on his defense of Sirhan, was unclear this weekend. And no one involved who could be reached was willing to speculate on the possible results.

The unofficial word at the Hall of Justice, however, has been that Judge Herbert V. Walker, who will preside at the twice-postponed Sirhan trial, has shown little inclination to allow any further delay. But the unanswered question that was being asked among the interested parties this weekend was what would happen if Mr. Cooper should decide for any reason that he should withdraw from the case.

Although Sirhan has two other court-appointed attorneys, Russell B. Parsons, 69, of Los Angeles, and Emilie Zola Berman, 65, a widely known New York trial lawyer, Mr. Cooper has been expected to lead the defense.

Curb on Statements

Because of the curb on pre-trial statements by attorneys and prospective witnesses, there has been little to show what course the Sirhan defense will follow when the trial gets under way.

On Aug. 2, Sirhan pleaded not guilty to the charges. At that time, Mr. Parsons said he had not "seen any evidence yet that he had any malice." The prosecution is required to prove "malice aforethought" to obtain a conviction for first-degree murder.

Mr. Parsons explained then that the not guilty plea "permits us to show the what and why—what are the real issues—if he is the man, why did he do it?"

Neither did Sirhan enter a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity.

This seemed to many legal observers here to set the stage for an attempt by the defense to prove "diminished responsibility," the precedent for which has been established by several decisions in California over the last 20 years that recognized a person may be legally sane yet

defense might try to show that Sirhan, who came to this country in 1957 from Jordan with his family after an impoverished childhood, uprooted by the Palestine War in 1948, the later product of a broken home, was incapable of a "mature" consideration of his actions.

Nationalist Feelings

Many of those who knew him have told of his strong Arab nationalist feelings, of his hatred of Israel, of his conviction that Senator Kennedy favored Israel over the Arab nations.

Shortly after Sirhan's arrest, Mayor Samuel W. Yorty caused a stir in court circles by disclosing that one of two notebooks reputedly kept by Sirhan said that Senator Kennedy had to be killed "by June 5," which was the first anniversary of the six-day Israeli-Arab war in 1967.

His attorneys could argue that these feelings and events diminished the "responsibility" or "capacity" of Sirhan, who has been examined by defense psychiatrists while in jail.

Meanwhile, the prosecution, which will be handled by Lynn D. Compton, chief deputy district attorney, and John E. Howard and David N. Fitts, deputy district attorneys, has said it will seek the death penalty for Sirhan.

The murder charge carries a possible death sentence or life imprisonment, with a possibility of release in as little as seven years. A jury that finds

a murder defendant guilty then goes through a second proceeding to set the penalty. A death penalty can be reduced by the presiding judge.

The 69-year-old Judge Walker, who will preside, imposed the death sentence on Caryl Chessman, the abductor whose long battle against execution ended in the death chamber in 1960. He also presided in the prosecution in 1957 of Confidential magazine for scandal-mongering.

If the trial opens as scheduled on Tuesday, most Hall of Justice observers are predict-

ing that it will last at least two, and perhaps three, months. The first three weeks, possibly more, are expected to be consumed in choosing a jury.

Judge Walker has a reputation here for preferring a firm schedule of courtroom days without late or Saturday sessions. He has already indicated that court will be conducted from 9:30 A.M. to noon, with a two-hour luncheon recess, and from 2 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

One reason given for the 9:30 A.M. starting time and the long luncheon recess is that

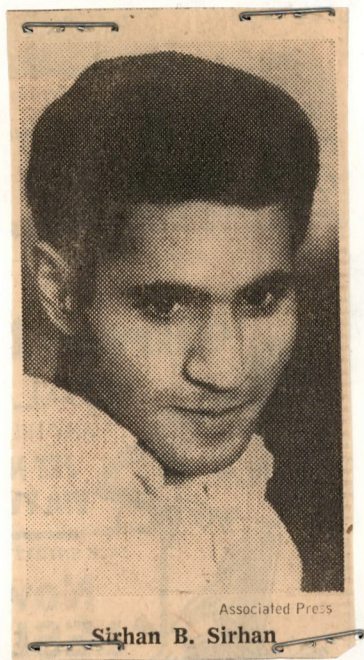
everyone who enters the 75-seat courtroom will be thoroughly searched each time.

Among the strict security precautions, steel plates have been used to cover the eighth-floor courtroom's windows and heavy doors with peepholes have been installed in corridors leading to the area.

Only 37 of the more than 100 newsmen who have been accredited for the trial will have seats in the courtroom. The remainder will be used by witnesses, security personnel, members of the Sirhan family and 11 to 15 members of the general public.

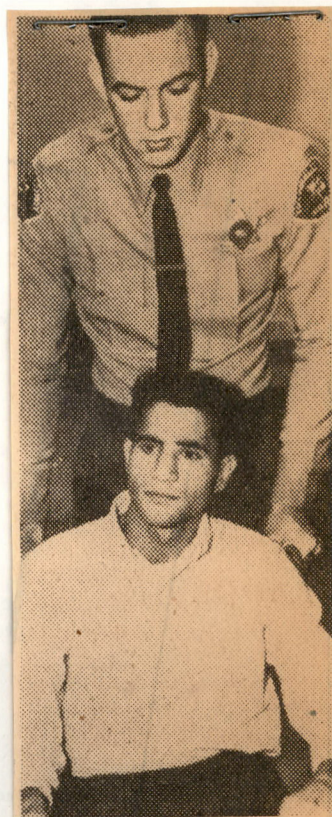
not fully responsible for his actions.

With such an approach, the



Associated Press

Sirhan B. Sirhan



Associated Press

A guard wheeling Sirhan B. Sirhan back to his cell after a hearing held last June. Sirhan was in a wheelchair as a result of a sprained ankle he had suffered in a scuffle before his arrest.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
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Miss Gandy	_____

Sirhan Trial... Judge Herbert V. Walker Man in Charge

By Phil Hanna

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker, chosen to preside over the murder trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, is called a "careful, legal technician" by his contemporaries.

The accused slayer of New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy can expect fair, honest and humane treatment from Walker, who has served on the Los Angeles criminal court bench for 13 of his 15 years as a judge.

The 60-year-old Walker whose best-remembered decision came in the Confidential Magazine criminal libel case 10 years ago, will be a familiar name in most households as every courtroom move will be examined closely around the world.

Appointed to the Superior Court in 1953 by then Gov. Earl Warren, the jurist is senior in term of years on the criminal bench in Los Angeles County.

Other noteworthy decisions rendered by Walker include his upholding of the death penalty in the case of convicted sex offender Robert Emmett Thornton.

The judge said the death penalty "was not cruel and unusual punishment" in Thornton's case.

"The death penalty does not violate the dignity of man nor does it violate the standards of decency that mark the progress of a maturing society," Judge Walker held.

An aircraft worker, Thornton was convicted of a series of sex attacks and kidnaping of three women. None were killed but one was injured so he was convicted under California's Little Lindbergh Law.

Judge Walker became involved in the Caryl Chessman case when he disqualified himself in the sentencing of the "Red Light Bandit."

It was Chessman's ninth appeal, and Walker said he took himself out of the case when it appeared that defense attorneys had a chance for two more years of appeals because it was alleged that the judge had discussed the case with District Attorney William B. McKesson.

At the time he denied he held any prejudice in Chessman's case.

Asked if he had been compared with famed criminal judge Charles Fricke, Walker laughed.

"You are talking about the man who was my ideal on the bench," he said. "He was an author, a lecturer, and I'm none of those things."

Walker aspired to the bench following his graduation from the University of Southern California Law School in 1928.

He was deputy corporation commissioner for 15 years following graduation from.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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/school; spent three years as chief deputy district attorney; and was in private practice for seven years before his appointment to the bench.

"I've sat on all three corners of the triangle and I think I know pretty well what the attorneys down front are thinking," Walker said.

He is given credit for running a tight courtroom during the Confidential Magazine trial. With all the "racy" material that was placed in exhibit, he wouldn't let the trial become a "three-ring circus."

Although he has been reversed many times on appeal with the "liberality of U.S. Supreme Court decisions," Walker has seldom questioned a jury verdict.

"When that has happened, I discussed the case with the jury, and I had to agree with them each time that their conclusion was logical," Walker said.

The courtroom for the Sirhan trial is small, with just 75 seats, 37 of which have been reserved for the news media.

Walker said he would not object if attorneys on both sides agree to a closed-circuit television transmission to a

second room on the floor below the main courtroom. This will be used to accommodate additional news media who have asked to cover the proceedings.

Walker's courtroom on the 8th floor of the Hall of Justice was selected because it offers maximum security for the defendant.

Before entering USC in 1922, Walker held a number of jobs to finance his education. He worked in an oil field in Casimolia, Calif., and at the La Brea Oil Fields in Los Angeles. He also served as chain man for a Los Angeles city surveying crew.

Before college he served two years in the Navy during World War I on the battleship USS Kentucky.

He might have had a career in motion pictures.

"They used to shoot movies near where I lived in Hollywood as a boy, and I got to be an extra in a series called 'Bill the Office Boy.'"

Born in San Francisco in 1891, Walker moved around the country with his family. They lived in Connecticut, New York and Arizona before returning to California.

He attended Los Angeles High and Lemoore Union High in his teen years.

Judge Walker, an active Episcopalian, met his wife, the former Alice Sophia Phelps, at church. They were married in 1925 and have three children and 12 grand-children.

A daughter, Mrs. Kathleen Brockelhurst, lives in Sunset Beach; a son, Herbert Weston Walker, lives in Newport Beach and practices law in Santa Ana; and a second daughter Mrs. Elizabeth Suzanne Zentner lives in Los Banos.

A resident of Glendale near the La Crescenta line, Judge Walker is a member of the Los Angeles, Glendale and American Bar Associations, Lawyer's Club, American Juridicature Society, and Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity.

He is a member of the American Legion, Masonic Lodge, Shrine, Acacia fraternity, Native Sons of the Golden West, Los Angeles Athletic Club, Chancery Club, Legion Lex and is past president of the USC Law Alumni Association.

He is a past president of the California State Employee's Association.

Recalling the Scene That Night

It was approximately 12:30 a.m. the morning of June 5, 1968.

More than 1000 wildly enthusiastic Democrats jostled each other and cheered in the hot, jammed Embassy Room of the Ambassador Hotel, a California victory theirs.

At the Cinderella hour, Sen.

Robert F. Kennedy had stepped before the microphone to acknowledge his triumph in the California Democratic primary election and to thank them for their support.

Clustered at his elbow were some of his super supporters—his wife, Ethel, other mem-

bers of the family of tragedy and triumph, Assembly Speaker Jesse Unruh, athlete and singer Roosevelt Grier.

The senator's speech was low key—one of thanks, of encouragement for the campaign ahead—and it was largely drowned out by the cheering.

The Kennedys and their party, bound for private celebrating at The Factory, changed their planned exit course through the packed crowd in the stifling ballroom.

Avoiding the room's main entrance, they moved toward a kitchen pantry.

In the pantry was a man now accused as the assassin of Sen. Kennedy—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

Shots rang out.

A man identified by police as Sirhan was crushed to the floor and a pistol wrenched from his hand.

Nearby Senator Kennedy sprawled on his back on the floor, his eyes glazing, immobile.

Twenty-five and one half hours later Senator Kennedy was dead.

The Other Victims

On that fateful early morning exactly seven months ago today, violence unparalleled in Los Angeles political history shattered the hopes of the California Democratic Party and of much of the nation.

At that hour Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was mortally wounded by gunshots that rang out in a pantry kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel.

Five other persons, all recovered, were wounded in the barrage of bullets. They were:

Paul Schrade, western director of the United Auto Workers, 4150 S. Hillcrest Drive, shot in the head.

William Weisel, 30, network newsman for ABC-TV, of Washington, D.C., wounded in the abdomen.

Irwin Stoll, 17, of 6089 Horner St., shot in the leg.

Mrs. Elizabeth Evans, 43, Saugues, a scalp wound.

Ira Goldstein, 19, of 4077 Hayvenhurst Ave., Encino, newsman for Continental News Service, shot in the left hip.

All are expected to testify in the murder trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan.

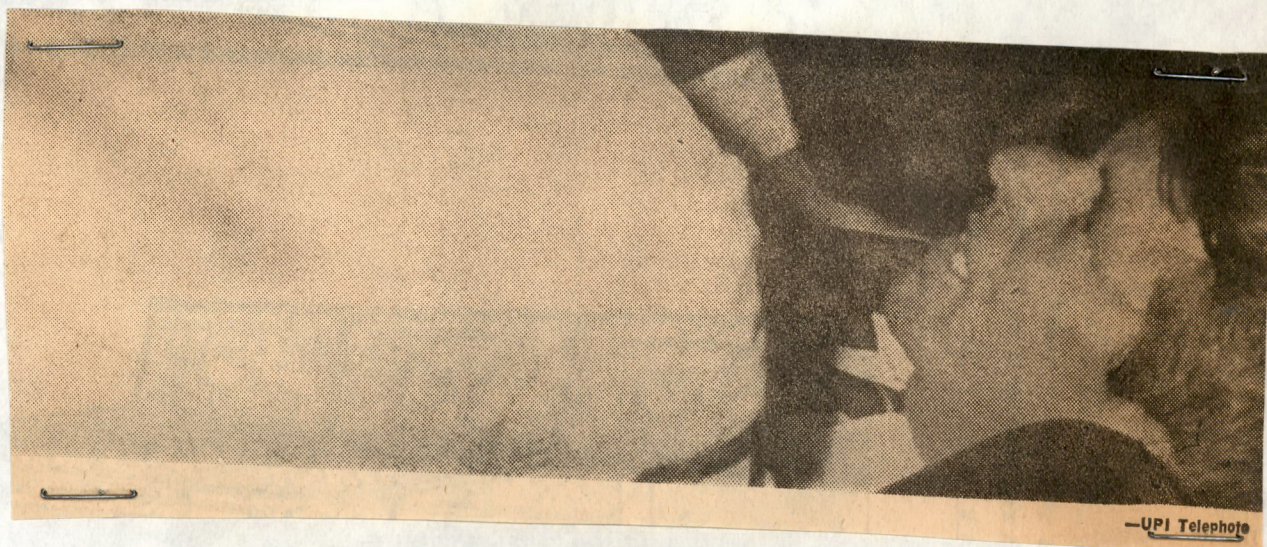


**Superior Court
Judge
Herbert V. Walker.
Called a
"careful legal
technician"
by his
colleagues,
he is
remembered
for the
Confidential Magazine
libel trial
and other
notable cases
including the
Robert Emmett Thornton
and
Caryl Chessman
cases.
He is 69,
has served on
the criminal
court bench
for 13 years.**



Sen. Robert F. Kennedy
lies clutching
a rosary
shortly after
he was shot
early on June 5
of last year.
He succumbed
early the
next day.

—UPI Telephoto



—UPI Telephoto

Aides gathered
to comfort
the wounded
and dying
senator after
he crumpled
to the floor.



Sweatshirt-clad
young man,
later identified
as
Sirhan B. Sirhan,
was grabbed
at the scene
of the
shooting and
disarmed.
He was then
hustled away
by Los Angeles
police and
other
security forces.

—UPI Telephoto

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan---the Wanderer--- Never Found His Way

Life Background Told by Those Closest to Him

BY ROBERT C. TOTH
and DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writers

In Arabic the name Sirhan means "wanderer."

In the little villages near Jerusalem—in what once was Palestine and is now Jordan and Israel—many distantly related families bear the name. Yet few people exemplify it as does Bishara Salameh Sirhan, now patriarch of a famous family.

Bishara, 55, has visited at least three times in the United States, where in 1957 he left his wife, Mary; daughter, Ayda, and three younger sons, Adel, Sirhan and Munir, and returned alone to Jordan, taking the family's money with him. In June of 1968, he and Mary were divorced, after 11 years of court action in which he accused her of infidelity. A priest called him a liar, and his own eldest sons, Sharif and Saidallah, testified that he tortured them by burning them with hot irons.

Today Bishara lives in his boyhood village of Taiyba, near Jerusalem, where he shuns his neighbors and they, in turn, repeat old stories of Sirhan family violence. Some of the stories are unquestionably false, but the villagers, significantly, believe them.

Sirhan's Early Traumas

Though Bishara has not worked since 1957, he lives in one of the town's most substantial stone houses, and, at his death, he will go to the most imposing mausoleum in Taiyba's cemetery. Its portal stone proclaims in Arabic: "This is the tomb of Bishara Sirhan." There is no mention of his family.

Sirhan was born March 19, 1944, in Jerusalem's Russian Hospital.

Bishara is the sole informant about Sirhan's earliest years, and, though he did not say so immediately, in later interviews Bishara said Sirhan saw violence in the 1948

"In 1948 he saw many things," says Bishara, "woundings and sufferings..."

Arab-Israeli war that was "traumatic" to him.

"In 1948 he saw many things," says Bishara, "woundings and sufferings... Sirhan was injured in the war—not physically, but in his head and heart."

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Miss Gandy _____

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The first such wound was inflicted, he says, when he and Sirhan went one day from their home in Jerusalem's Musrara sector to the post office in the Old Walled City, via the Damascus Gate, and an explosive-filled barrel was dropped near the gate and blew up. "The ground shook, the walls shook. Sirhan cried from his heart. He fell down. I thought he was dead, finished. I waited and after 20 minutes he opened his eyes. 'Daddy,' he said. . . . (Here Bishara hits the table, muttering in Arabic, and his eyes moisten; when he resumes talking, there is no audible emotion in his voice, however.)

"Can you walk?" I asked him. He could not walk but he didn't want me to carry him, lest I get tired. Imagine! We saw the yard full of blood—about 40 or 50 killed. The yard was full of pieces of meat. 'Daddy, I don't want to see it,' he said, and I covered his eyes until we passed the sight. He was so frightened he spent two days in bed."

Describing the same incident another time, it is interesting to note, Bishara revealed that the explosion occurred before he had completed his errand. After Sirhan had revived, Bishara went on with his business, and it was when he was taking Sirhan home, back through the bloody scene at the Damascus Gate, that Sirhan protested at the sight.

Another time, Bishara says, on another errand to the post office, a mortar shell exploded with such force nearby that Sirhan fell off a stairway, suffering a bruised cheek and bloody nose.

It was amid the explosions of shells that the family fled its tiny 7-by-10-foot room in Musrara in 1948, when Sirhan was 4. They hid in the room for two days and nights, Bishara recalls, while fighting raged in the city. Finally, he says, "a British officer told us to go, so we ran away without anything, no furniture, no clothing, no shoes."

They fled to the Old Walled City in Arab Jerusalem, moving into a house formerly occupied by Jews, while refugee Jews took sanctuary in their abandoned room in Musrara.

Bishara lost his job after this war and "it was very hard for two years," he says. "Then I went to Amman where I met a British major I had worked for here and he gave me a job on water supply in a Jordan army camp." This appears to have been Bishara's only steady job from 1948 until the family's move to America in 1957.

When first told of Kennedy's assassination, Bishara said, "I'm stupefied. I'm shocked. This is the blackest day of my life . . . I am

very sorry. I brought my children up as best I could, and to fear God.

Sirhan, he said, "was a talented boy, more than his four brothers. How he came to this is beyond me." Sirhan was a "very gentle, polite, quiet and humble boy, interested mainly in books. It's beyond comprehension how he could have committed such a terrible act on his own initiative without having been put up to do it by some other people. . . . My son was a good Christian all his life. He could not have done such a thing on his own. Someone must have pushed him into it."

"In Jerusalem," Bishara recalled, "the children were good, were satisfied." Had they ever required discipline, physical punishment per-

Sirhan was "religious, clever. Every Sunday he went to Sunday school. He prayed before going to bed."

haps? Bishara looked intent for a moment, then said, "Sometimes you had to beat them." But had he ever burned them with a hot iron? Bishara shook his head: no. And had he ever beaten Sirhan? "Sirhan was good. I never hit him," Bishara said.

The question is repeated later, and again he denies it, eyes darting from place to place: "No, never. Never . . . never . . ."

Then what of Sharif and Saidallah? Why had they left home in their early teens? "This is not important," said Bishara. "No one is perfect. . . . I've seen many things in my life. People change the truth. . . . Inside the family I don't want to speak about."

But one more question: why did he leave his family in America in 1957? "I came back because of my mother. She is 90," said Bishara, waving toward the village. But she does not live in the village, nor with Bishara; she lives next door, with a brother Bishara has not spoken to since 1963, and Bishara and his mother do not speak either.

As a child, Bishara said, Sirhan was "religious, clever. Every Sunday he went to Sunday school. He prayed before going to bed." Bishara added, as praise of his pious son, that "he never went out to play, never. . . . I like Sirhan very much. The neighbors, teachers, they all said he was the best."

Sirhan was so well behaved and pious, Bishara said proudly, that he frequently disapproved of other children's language. Sometimes he would bring a friend home and be a perfect host, but after the boy left, Sirhan would say, "that boy uses bad language. Don't ever let him in the house again."

After fleeing Musrara, the Sirhans moved into a building at the corner of El Malak Road and Suq el-Hussur Street, a poor but clean neighborhood in the Old Walled City. The building housed a store on the ground floor, a stone stairway to a common toilet on the landing, and three rooms on the second floor. Each of the rooms was occupied by an entire family.

The Sirhans' room was a split level, 15-by-30-foot room, vast by contrast to their Musrara home. A rain reservoir on the roof was the water supply, the walls were unpainted, and a single kerosene lamp was the sole light. It had a domed ceiling and a grilled window overlooking the street.

Also moving into the house after the 1948 war were two Arab Muslim families—refugees from parts of Jerusalem that later became Israel—those of Amid Yousef Hashima and Esu Jubran.

'A Very Secretive Family'

Mrs. Hashima remembers the Sirhans as "a very secretive family. They seldom spoke to others and they didn't allow their children to play in the street with others. . . . The mother always talked about Jesus and religion." But, she adds, they didn't act superior to their neighbors, just aloof.

They never discussed family troubles with Mrs. Hashima, "but there were differences between him and his wife about the children. He kicked out the eldest sons and the mother didn't like it."

The Sirhans seemed poor at the beginning, Mrs. Hashima recalls, "but then the mother became a missionary. She spoke English very well. She was intelligent. She got gifts from the church for the family—clothes and games for the children."

In the early 1950s, she recalls, Mary Sirhan was no longer a pretty woman, after a disease caused her lower lip to pull to one side. Mrs. Hashima says she thought Bishara wanted to divorce Mary after her disfigurement, although there was never any talk of another woman.

Sirhan, she says, was definitely Bishara's favorite, and "you respected Sirhan when he talked. He was not a boy in his head." But he was weak and thin—she recalls once when he was hospitalized with dysentery—and didn't play in street games.

"Sometimes I saw the boy go out dressed in a scout uniform," she

recalls. "I once asked Mary to let my sons play with him to listen to his good English and learn, but she said 'no time.'"

The Sirhan children went to the church-operated Lutheran school, better than the public school where neighbor children went, and Sirhan "was very good in writing and reading, clever. He stayed in the house, didn't play with other boys. The children didn't speak in the house. They were afraid of the father."

"They were a confused family," says Mrs. Jubran. "No one knew what was between Mary and Bishara." She often heard Bishara shouting at his wife.

"I don't know where they got money," she says. "Mary gave gifts to small children, but only to Christian children. She just worked for her own religion. . . . When any neighbors needed help, Mary would help them, but she only gave gifts and money to Christian children. . . . Ayda was the best one of the family," she says, but adds, "I liked Mary."

And Sirhan? "The father did not allow Sirhan to go out of the house. All of them were afraid of the father. He turned the house into a jail for them. . . . The father always made Sirhan afraid. The boy was not well in his mind. He was a complicated boy."

Did he ever talk about the 1948 war experiences Bishara described? No, says Mrs. Jubran, "none of them ever mentioned them." And did Bishara appear to favor Sirhan over the other children? "He hit them all the same. He had a heart of stone."

A Sickly, Nervous Boy

Mrs. Jubran's husband, Esu, recalls Sirhan as a dark-skinned, sickly and nervous boy who, "when he wasn't yelling at his sister and brothers would sit with his mind away."

Mary was very protective, Jubran remembers, and Sirhan seemed older than his years. "When he talked," says Jubran, "it felt like he was not 11 years old."

Jubran also remembers a bomb explosion in 1954, when the shopkeeper on the floor below was killed. "I don't know if Sirhan saw it actually happen," he says, "but I saw him in the crowd right afterward." And from then on, says Jubran, Sirhan seemed changed. "He quarreled with my children and fought. . . . He played rough when his father was away. I complained sometimes to Bishara and the father hit him hard."

Another neighbor, Mrs. Laila Said, recalls that Bishara used to lock Ayda in their room and her friends would have to bring food to her. Once, she says, Bishara chained her to the grilled window.

She says Bishara used to discipline the boys with cruel beatings, once beating one of the sons until he lost consciousness and chasing away the neighbors when they tried to rescue the boy.

It was in late 1948 that the Rev. Daoud Haddad, pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Savior, was asked to look in on the Sirhan family. "It was a wretched house," he says, "no chairs, nothing. They were very poor, so we accepted an elder brother (Saidallah) and the sister in the school without tuition. Later we accepted more of the children, and through them got better acquainted with the family."

Father Seen as 'Odd'

"I realized the father was an odd father, nervous, with fits of temper, often getting angry at his wife. The family's life was not happy because of the moody, rude father. . . . Every now and then he hit the mother. She was running about, asking people for work. He did not work. This may throw light, or perhaps a shadow, on the character of the children who had such a family life."

Mr. Haddad says the church provided the Sirhans with perhaps 25 percent of their food and clothing until 1956, when Mary became more interested in missionary work.

But during those years, Mr. Haddad formed a strong impression of young Sirhan: "Sirhan was a quiet boy, intelligent, although his grades were not the best. You could read in his eyes that he was alert. But he was unquiet, a bit nervous. He was a clever boy—very quick—but unstable and very unhappy. I remember thinking that he would have a very difficult time later in life because the family he grew up in lacked the basic things a boy needs to understand life."

Made Acceptable Grades

Mr. Haddad says he never heard of unusual tortures inflicted on the children but said, "Bishara had frequent violent fits and was given to breaking what little furniture they had, and beating the children. He thrashed them with sticks and his fists whenever they disobeyed him. Young Sirhan seemed to have some of this violence in him. He was thin and nervous and inclined to sudden bursts of temper. At other times he was oddly quiet for long periods."

"Mary was the dominant parent," he says, "but she was harsh herself. She was terribly narrow-minded and rigid in religious matters, but she loved the children in her way and she managed to hold the family together."

Sirhan attended the Lutheran school from kindergarten through the fifth grade, leaving in the summer of 1956, when he had turned 12. His grades were not the

best in the class, but nonetheless good. In the first grade he stood fifth among 26 students, and in the fifth grade he was seventh in a class of 16. His grades that year were: religion, 80, Arabic, 74; geometry, 73; singing, 73; science, 72; English, 70; geography, 68; history, 67; hygiene, 63; drawing, 61, and arithmetic, 60. As to citizenship, he was rated 75 in conduct, 75 in intelligence and 70 in cleanliness.

His teacher, Salim Awad, notes that the record says of Sirhan: "Good in subjects and character, satisfactory in cleanliness . . . Should be passed."

One of Sirhan's school friends from 1951 to 1956 was Wahib Hashwiah, who says today:

"Sirhan had a good sense of humor. The teacher might say something foolish and Sirhan would say something clever to us." These remarks were usually at the teacher's expense; he said "and sometimes the teacher would say, 'Look at this small boy, how clever he is.'"

But it was in a spirit of fun,

"You respected Sirhan when he talked. He was not a boy in his head."

Hashwiah said, and Sirhan was generally held up as a good example to the class. Although among the smallest, Sirhan was also among the oldest—Hashwiah was 3 years younger—and evidently applied himself well.

Hashwiah says Sirhan never talked about any experiences in the then-recent 1948 war, nor did he ever complain about his father.

But another acquaintance does recall one incident involving Bishara.

Sejim Ratas, 4 years older than Sirhan, was a neighbor. Says Ratas: "I remember once that Sirhan had to go to school without shoes. I saw him walking barefoot. He said it was because his father had beat him, like he did the other children, and that he took a piece of iron, heated it on the stove, and put it on the boy's heel. He couldn't wear shoes then."

Sirhan, Ratas recalls, "was not well, not strong. Sometimes he wouldn't go to school for a week because he was sick. Wherever his mother went, he went—to the market, to church, visiting. He was a mother's boy."

In the summer of 1956, Bishara and Mary began to think of going to America. Sirhan did not return to the Lutheran school in the fall, and on Dec. 14 the family left Jerusalem, thanks to the American missionary couple Bishara had asked to "save a family from the darkness." Their expenses were also partially paid by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. The eldest sons, Sharif and Saidallah, by then were living in Amman and would not follow for three years.

Mary's sisters, Julia and Elaine, recall that when the family left the ancient city for a new life in the new world, "Mary didn't say goodbye when she left. Her husband refused to let her see us." And after Mary arrived in America, she never wrote.

Father Stayed in East

Four days after their arrival in New York the Sirhans went on to Pasadena, home city of the missionary couple who had befriended them in Jerusalem.

Differences between Bishara and Mary came rapidly to a head, and since he had found himself a good job in an east coast defense plant, it was left to Mary to find a home for herself, her daughter and three sons.

Mary found a small, cream-colored, three-bedroom frame house on Howard St., one of Pasadena's older, lower-middle-income residential streets. Like most of the houses nearby, it is about 50 years old, set well back on its lot under tall shade trees. It is an inviting setting for children to play in and the street, now racially mixed, rings daily with the shouts of children of all sizes and colors.

But it was always very quiet around the Sirhan home, says a neighbor. She, of European background, says other neighbors were

very cold, even belligerent, to her sometimes, and to the Sirhans as well, so the Sirhans kept mostly to themselves. There were no parties, few visitors, and she recalls seeing Sirhan playing occasionally with another neighbor's collie dog or putting in the yard, washing the car or doing some gardening—an activity which pleased both him and his mother.

The Sirhans were no more warmly received elsewhere.

The Arab community is among the smaller of Southern California's many ethnic populations, numbering between 20,000 and 30,000, and is overwhelmingly Lebanese and Syrian. Most of these immigrated to America before World War I, found Southern California to be much like their homeland, and now, well into a second and third generation, are comfortably integrated into an affluent American culture which they are coming more and more to regard as native. There are no predominantly Arab neighborhoods, as one might find in New York; they are widely scattered throughout Southern California.

Family Without Father

In this formless Arab "community," the Sirhans were different, set apart. They were newly arrived and unfamiliar with their new surroundings. They were noticeably dark-skinned. When they spoke English, it was heavily accented and halting, and among themselves, at home, they clung to Arabic. They were poor. And among a people in whom the patriarchal tradition is strong, they were a family without a father.

For their part, the Sirhans found little to entice them out of their constricted new world. There were only about 50 Jordanian families throughout the entire Los Angeles area, most of them already embarked on American lives of their own.

There were a very few Arab nightclubs where one might watch dancers and hear one's native music and speech, but Mrs. Sirhan sharply disapproved of these. Her family neither drank nor smoked, nor did they frequent places where other people did.

There was no Greek Orthodox church nearby. Most of that faith went to the Syrian Orthodox Cathedral, St. Nicholas, in Los Angeles. The Sirhans made the inconvenient trip a few times at the beginning, but these trips soon tapered off. Father Paul Romley recalls them as "always humble and aloof."

Others have noted this aloofness in the Sirhans, and it is not difficult to understand. In their homeland they had been an upright, Christian family, among the best educated of their class, once accustomed to financial security but uncomplaining and industrious in hard times.

All Appear Introverted

Moreover, a quarter-century of marriage to a man like Bishara had failed to break Mary's spirit. She was not a whiner, but a tight-lipped, proud, strong woman. And where her family had been noted for its privacy and silence among old acquaintances in Jerusalem, it is hardly surprising that among strangers in Pasadena they turned in on themselves even more, mending their griefs privately, trusting and confiding in few.

It is this aloofness which, while being one of the family's strengths, perhaps contributed most toward introverting the Sirhans in their new environment, in effect creating a social and cultural vacuum in which the children would have to develop as best they could, and would have to build their futures upon an emotionally impoverished past.

Mary, concerned as ever for the children's religious faith, had difficulty finding a church that suited her taste. First she tried the church of their family's benefactors, the First Nazarene Church of Pasadena, but after about a month they stopped going.

Then there were the sporadic visits to the Syrian Orthodox Cathedral.

Then she took up the First Baptist Church in Pasadena, even enrolling Sirhan, her brightest and most devout child, in the Sunday school and group of young teens. But here, as in Jerusalem years before, the serious young Sirhan was offended by the conduct of his peers. He complained about the other youngsters' frivolity; they held hands and giggled, while he felt that church was a place for praying and reading the Bible.

They remained with the Baptists for a few years, and in late June, 1960, this church sponsored the entry into the United States of Sharif and Saidallah, by then in their late 20s.

The older brothers, long accustomed to living away from the family, soon took quarters by themselves, Saidallah in an apartment nearby, Sharif in Highland Park.

Uses Nickname

Sirhan, meanwhile, now known by his mother's nickname of "Sol," was a student, first at Longfellow Elementary School for sixth grade, where a friend now recalls, "He was a very hard worker after school—sold papers, swept out a coffee shop nearby. My parents tried often to have me behave like him, he was so polite."

But even so, Sirhan was different from his schoolmates. Scholastically he was behind the American school system, although two years older than his classmates. This, in addition to his small size, dark skin and accented English made him an easy target for youngsters' gibes.

By the time he moved on to Eliot Junior High School, his pattern of social conduct was unalterably fixed, never to change significantly in the years ahead. A friend at that time recalls him only as a "loner who stayed to himself a lot." When they were graduated from junior high, Sirhan signed the friend's yearbook in Arabic; the friend couldn't translate Sirhan's message, but the point was, it was distinctive, something only Sirhan could do.

Situation Improves

Outwardly, things were going well for the Sirhans in the early 1960s. Sirhan was doing well in his studies, getting "A" and "B" grades without visible effort and working after school. Ayda was an accountant, Saidallah worked occasionally as a house painter, and Adel, despite resistance from Mary, got a night job at the Fez. Sharif was an accountant for the California Baptist Convention, and Mary found a \$195-a-month job as housekeeper for the nursery school in Pasadena's Westminster Presbyterian Church. The family bought the house they had been renting, and though their payments were sometimes late, they managed to hang onto it.

But behind the facade the Sirhans had erected against the world, things were not so smooth. Pasadena police were becoming acquainted with the Sirhan brothers.

Least seriously involved with the police was Saidallah, now 36, who in 1966 was convicted in Pasadena Municipal Court of being drunk in a public place. He also is said to have accumulated a number of traffic violations, in sufficient number that in June of 1968—only two days after the Kennedy assassination — his scheduled naturalization as a U.S. citizen was cancelled indefinitely and his traffic record was cited as meriting further investigation.

The youngest son, Munir, now 21, had progressively failing eyesight, a worry to him and his family. One day in 1963, when he was 15, he sneaked away in Saidallah's car and promptly smashed into a telephone pole because he could not see well enough to drive.

Three years later, in May, 1966 Munir was arrested in Flagstaff, Ariz., and pleaded guilty to a vagrancy charge. He couldn't meet bail and served 15 days in jail.

The next month, he was arrested and charged with

possession and sale of marijuana to an undercover narcotics agent. In October he was convicted and sentenced to five years' probation — one year to be served in jail — but early in 1967 the conviction was set aside since he was a juvenile at the time. Deportation proceedings against Munir were dropped in mid-1968, after his appeal on grounds that his was a juvenile offense.

Most seriously involved with the police was the eldest, Sharif, now 37. In May, 1963, Sharif was in an auto accident and suffered whiplash injuries to his back, neck and head. His supervisor in the Baptist accounting office, George Matas, said Sharif seemed to "withdraw from the group and from society. He complained of headaches, said his eyes hurt. His work deteriorated. We finally had to let him go."

The family was so embittered at Sharif's dismissal that they quit the Baptist church. That was in December. That same month, Sharif was arrested and charged with attempted murder after a romance which went on the rocks.

One Dec. 18, Sharif was arrested while in the act of sawing through the hydraulic brake lines of his girl friend's car. He was convicted of tampering with the auto and placed on one year's probation.

Ayda, meanwhile, in a surprisingly independent move for an Arab daughter, had gone off alone to Palm Springs, to work in a date shop run by a man named Mennell. Mary was closest to Ayda and opposed the move, but Ayda, in her mid-20s, was apparently possessed of

"His children did not speak in the house. They were afraid of the father."

some of Mary's own strength and determination.

She married Mennell, several years her senior, in 1961, and when she revealed the marriage to her family, a bitter scene ensued. Sharif, the eldest male, beat his wilful sister with a shoe, and Ayda fled.

Ayda later died of leukemia, and Sharif, a friend said, was so overcome with remorse that "he cried like a baby."

Throughout this period of the family's life, Sirhan was the least outgoing but most promising of the sons. It was Sirhan who would put the family on the map, everyone agreed: he was serious-minded, religious, polite, devoted to his mother, absorbed in books. One neighbor recalls he thought he might go into dentistry. Another felt he was better suited to a more intellectual pursuit — teaching, perhaps, or religious work.

It is a curious facet of Sirhan's personality that by that time—insofar as it is recalled by his acquaintances—he had a peculiar facility for showing only certain sides of his nature to certain groups of people —and never very much to anyone. The recollections of different persons have

about Sirhan are strangely flat and one-dimensional, dissimilar in content but strikingly similar in their lack of emotional force.

The heart-to-heart talks normal to adolescents apparently were not for him. With some family friends, for instance, he never discussed politics, yet with school friends he rarely discussed anything else.

His grades at John Muir High School were good and classmates remember him as very smart, very quiet, inclined to be somewhat competitive and given to discouragement when bested.

One of his better friends was Curtis Townsend, a Negro who lived not far away.

"He was a smart boy," says Townsend. "He caught on quick. We ran around with an interracial group, and we used to have contests to see who could get the highest grades on tests. He got discouraged if he didn't win."

Townsend also recalls how "a kid teased him because he often showed up at school with mixed pairs of socks—each of a different color—and Sirhan told him to lay off. He'd speak up if he was crossed. But it was funny, he was always doing something like that, maybe out of absentmindedness. Like in sports, for instance, kids made fun of him because he'd show up for sports, him with his 30-inch waist in 36 trousers. He'd just look funny."

Sirhan used to talk of going back to Jordan someday, Townsend says, and "he gave me the impression that when he got back to Jordan he'd be somebody big—a prince or something. He used to talk about going back to help his people."

Throughout his entire time in high school, Townsend says, he cannot recall a single girl Sirhan ever dated or expressed an interest in, with one possible exception. However, this girl, when interviewed, said she not only never had dated Sirhan but could not recall him at all.

Mideast History

A girl in Sirhan's history class recalls that that was one of his better subjects and that he often used to come to class early or stay late to talk to the history teacher, Darwin Russell. Sirhan's card at the Pasadena Public Library bears out this observation; almost all of the books he checked out dealt with the Middle East.

William Spaniard, now in Saigon, recalls that Sirhan was "a taciturn individual who didn't say very much: friendly, really pleasant, but hard to get to know. He was brilliant. He was studying Russian when everyone else was barely getting by in Spanish and English."

Swedish foreign exchange student Christian Ek—now in Stockholm—says Sirhan "dreamed of being something big in Jordan after his studies in the United States. He was a calm, well-mannered boy, nothing evil about him." But Robert Chase, now of Glendale, remembers him as "so quiet and such a weirdie that at assemblies he wouldn't stand for the National Anthem."

Still another classmate, now in Mexico City, says Sirhan was "always so shy you hardly knew he was there. He sat in the back

of the class, never saying much of anything."

When Sirhan did say anything, others recall, it was almost always on the subject of politics, civil rights or, most often, the Middle East. Then, they say, he would become impassioned and make bitterly anti-Zionist statements.

Because of his lack of stature, Sirhan was not good at sports and disliked physical education classes, so he switched to R.O.T.C. He also was a member of the junior and senior class councils at John Muir, and is remembered by John McGrain, president of the council, as a likable fellow who seemed left out.

In the fall of 1963, Sirhan went on to Pasadena City College, a two-year institution that fell short of his dream of a college career. His grades continued to be above average.

His social life continued to be almost non-existent, consisting mainly of occasional cups of coffee with students at a hamburger place across from the campus.

Occasionally Adel, now 30, would take Sirhan with him to the Fez, where Sirhan would play the tamboura, a kind of drum. But these visits were infrequent, since Sirhan didn't date and his mother disapproved of nightclubs.

There were only two fleeting encounters with girls at this period. At PCC he became interested in a girl named Gwendolyn Gum and phoned her a few times for dates, but she was always busy. At one school carnival he sought to impress Gwendolyn, who was running a booth, by buying \$10 worth of votes from her at a penny a vote. Nothing happened. She never dated him.

Names in Diary

On another occasion, when he and others were in Newport Beach, Sirhan bought a soft drink for a girl named Peggy Ostercamp. That was the extent of his outward involvement with her.

Inwardly, Sirhan evidently fantasied these encounters as hopeful signs. He was in the habit of keeping an informal diary, and both girls' names are written in it, with names of other people Sirhan either wished or imagined were his friends.

From his late teens into college, he also attended meetings of the Organization of Arab Students, a loosely organized group whose status fluctuated from burgeoning to defunct, largely in response to the changing enthusiasms of its student membership. The group in Pasadena now is disbanded.

Sam Farraj, a Jordanian—now a medical lab technician living in Arcadia—has known the Sirhan family for many years. He knew Saidallah in Jerusalem and was once a close friend of Sharif. Sirhan, Adel and Sharif used to attend OAS meetings, Farraj says, and he recalls that Sirhan was an ardent nationalist, extremely anti-Zionist but not, he stresses, anti-Jewish.

At some point in late 1964 or early 1965, Sirhan's dreams of education and a profession began to fade and his studies took a sharp turn for the worse. By the end of his second year at PCC he was flunking every subject, and on the advice of a teacher, he dropped out of school. Once the fairest hope of his family, he now was not even qualified to continue his education at an upper division university.

What triggered this precipitous change in the grades that had always meant so much to him is not known. During this time Ayda's illness was wasting her life, and in March of 1965 she died. Perhaps the loss of his strong-willed, self-sufficient sister was more than he could withstand. But perhaps not, for emotional bonds among the Sirhan family were never the subject of outside discussion. From this time on, however, Sirhan was no longer the serious, scholarly boy.

For a while he worked at filling stations, but then another plan came to him. He had long been fond of horse racing, often spending afternoons at Santa Anita, where he would bet freely, sometimes losing every nickel, sometimes winning heavily.

So he decided to become a jockey. He had always been poor in sports, but as a jockey his lack of size would be an advantage. Perhaps it crossed his mind that successful jockeys were not made to feel unmanly, however small they were.

As a first step, Sirhan got a state license as an exercise boy and a "hot walker"—one who walks horses around to cool them down after a workout. He took a job at the Granja Vista del Rio ranch near Corona in the summer of 1966. But in September he fell from a horse and landed on his head.

Sirhan was "generally banged up" from the fall, one doctor said, and was hospitalized overnight for observation. At that time,

no major injury was noted, but Sirhan soon complained of impaired eyesight and insisted upon further treatment.

An ophthalmologist examined Sirhan in November and December, after Sirhan had complained of pain and blurred vision, but tests showed nothing wrong with Sirhan's eyes. When the doctor refused to write a letter confirming the alleged eye injury, he said Sirhan threatened him.

In July of 1967, no longer at the ranch, Sirhan filed a disability claim for workmen's compensation. The insurance firm, rather than dispute the claim, settled out of court for \$2,000. In February, 1968, after paying medical and legal fees, Sirhan had a nest egg of \$1,700—and no further hope of being a jockey.

Sirhan's fall is reminiscent of Sharif's 1963 auto accident, in light of the fact that Mary has since said Sirhan's behavior changed after the fall. "He didn't seem to be hurt too bad, I mean physically," she said. "But he changed

"He was a clever boy — very quick — but unstable and very unhappy . . ."

somehow. After that accident, we seemed not so close any more. I couldn't even get through to him when we talked."

Whether or not Sirhan incurred some barely detectable but nonetheless affective brain damage is the subject of much speculation today. A defense attorney has indicated this possibility will be exhaustively probed.

For several months after leaving the ranch, Sirhan didn't work. Finally Mary appealed on his behalf to John Weidner, owner of a Pasadena health food shop, and in late 1967 Weidner gave Sirhan a job as stock and delivery boy at \$2 an hour.

Weidner found his new employe bright, pleasant and witty, eager to please and so honest that he soon trusted Sirhan to make bank deposits.

But he also found him quick to resent what he construed as criticism of his work. "He was a proud man with a good opinion of himself," says Weidner, adding that Sirhan visibly resented authority.

Weidner's wife, Naomi, adds "He had a lot of pride, a lot of arrogance. We were always careful how we gave him an anaphy and somehow became order. If you gave him an anaphy he didn't like he became very resentful."

Weidner, a Dutch World War II veteran who worked in the underground saving Jews from the Nazis, took a more than routine interest in the nationalistic young immigrant, and when business was slow he would lead Sirhan into conversation.

"I think he was a man of revolt," says Weidner. "He was a kind of anarchist against society, against law and order, against those who possess. Against those who have more than he has and are more successful in life." He says that when they discussed civil rights and racial disorder, Sirhan would say, "In America, freedom does not exist. I agree with the violence."

Atheistic Views

Sirhan also expressed dislike for wealthy people, said Weidner, and "a real hatred for Jews. He said the Jewish people were rich and had taken his country, so he was very angry against them."

When Weidner said Sirhan should try to forgive injustice, Sirhan answered, "I would like to be like you but I cannot."

And once, in a discussion of religion, Sirhan told Weidner, "There is no God. You see in Israel what happens to the Arab. There is no God. How can you have a God?"

Sirhan at this point had begun to explore theosophy and somehow became attracted to the Rosicrucian

ans, or Ancient Mystical Order of the Rosae Crucis, which sells mail-order courses which purport to help one unlock the psychic powers of the mind. He also corresponded with a mystically inclined man in Napa—whose identity and whereabouts are presently unknown—who confided to some theosophist friends after the Kennedy assassination that the tone of Sirhan's letters had caused him to be fearful months before that Sirhan's mental health was perhaps endangered as a result of uninformed dabbling with mystical concepts.

Mysticism aside, Sirhan evidently had not repudiated conventional religion as thoroughly as his brash arguments with Weidner would indicate. In his jail cell he still prays to the Christian God with his mother.

Adding fuel to his arguments with Weidner was the still-recent six-day war in which Israel so humiliated her Arab adversaries. Sirhan often

"I saw him walking barefoot. He said it was because his father had beat him . . . and that he took a piece of iron, heated it on the stove and put it on the boy's heel . . ."

equated the Jews' victory with the Nazis' treatment of Jews and demanded: "You think the Jews can't be cruel, too?"

Mrs. Weidner also talked with Sirhan, and she recalls one particularly memorable story. "I'm going to tell you something I've never told anyone, not even my parents," she quotes Sirhan as saying. "When I was small, I saw an Israeli soldier cut off the breasts of an Arab woman."

No Evidence

There is no evidence that he ever did tell this story, or any other, to anyone else. It is also interesting to note that of the several atrocities Bishara said his son witnessed, this one was not among them.

In March, 1968, a month after getting his disability claim, Sirhan and the Weidners fell out. There was a dispute about some order Weidner gave him. Sirhan insisted he had been called a liar. Weidner insisted he meant no such thing and attempted to patch it up, even going to Sirhan's home to talk it over. Sirhan was adamant and quit his job.

Soon after, he filed a claim for severance before the Labor Relations Board, but he lost the claim.

Meanwhile, he was still the model neighbor youth, dropping in on Mrs. Olive Blakeslee for games of Chinese checkers, talking with Mrs. Martin Pulite about how to plant a garden for his mother, or visiting with Linda Massri, a longtime family friend, about religion, psychology and books.

"We used to talk about Freud," says Mrs. Massri, herself American-born but of Syrian parentage. "We'd talk about the psychological motivations for people's actions, and Sirhan would say that God was in a person's mind."

She was especially close to Sirhan, she says. "He was like a little brother to me... I don't know where the reports of Sirhan's violent hatred toward the Israelis came from. He never discussed such feelings with me as long as I knew him. I could see all the nice things in his character. He was especially good to his mother; he was always with her. He was a well-educated and well-behaved boy, an intellectual."

And neither did Sirhan ever discuss his father with Mrs. Massri, she says, but after the assassination she wondered at some length about his feelings toward Bishara. On the day of the shooting, a badly shaken Saidallah came to see her, she says, and told her, "My father was a second Hitler."

Failed in Hopes

As the summer of 1968 drew near, Sirhan had little to look forward to. He had failed to achieve his hopes through education, his dream of becoming a jockey had turned into a bitter joke, and even jobs that he had felt beneath him had fallen by the wayside.

All he had left was the remainder of his disability claim, which he had given to his mother for safekeeping, and for which he had to argue every time he wanted money, because she feared he would waste it.

He puttered around the house, read the newspapers regularly, followed the continuing ferment in the Middle East and was interested in the accelerating political campaign here. In late April the two interests converged, in a political column in which Sen. Kennedy was criticized for his support of the Israeli cause. Sirhan cut out the column and put it in his wallet.

The Fatal Day

He also jotted down his own political thoughts, we are told, in a couple of stenographic notebooks—anti-Israeli, pro-Arab thoughts—and sometime about the middle of May, the notation that Kennedy must die before June 5.

On the morning of Tuesday, June 4—election day—Sirhan lounged around the house for most of the morning. He was at home when his mother left for work at 8 a.m. and he was still there around noon.

By early afternoon he was at the pistol range of the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club, where he practiced rapid firing of several hundred rounds until about 5 p.m.

Met Acquaintance

Then he drifted over to Bob's Big Boy hamburger stand, next to PCC, where he met a casual acquaintance, also an Arab, named Gaymoard Mistri. After talking for a while they walked over to the PCC cafeteria, where they met three more of Sirhan's slight acquaintances, Abdul Jabra Malki, Marouf Badran and Anour Saigh.

None of the four knew Sirhan well enough to sense his real frame of mind—for no one had ever known him well—but he seemed, they said, to be in a good mood. They chatted desultorily about nothing special until about 7:15, when the others had to excuse themselves and go to evening classes.

Sirhan waved a casual good night and strolled off into the early evening toward his car.

The polls would be closing soon, the voting would be over. All but his. It was time he was getting to the Ambassador.

Last spring, about the time the leaves were budding, a man decided to test that recurrent, highest promise of the American dream. He decided to run for President.

Robert Francis Kennedy was fortune's darling, some said. Son of one of America's wealthiest families, influential senator, brother to a martyred President and, as the martyr took on the lineaments of folk-hero, heir to an incomparably rich political legacy of goodwill and sympathy. He was the new exponent of the legendary Kennedy mystique, idealism's new standard-bearer, the new champion of the poor.

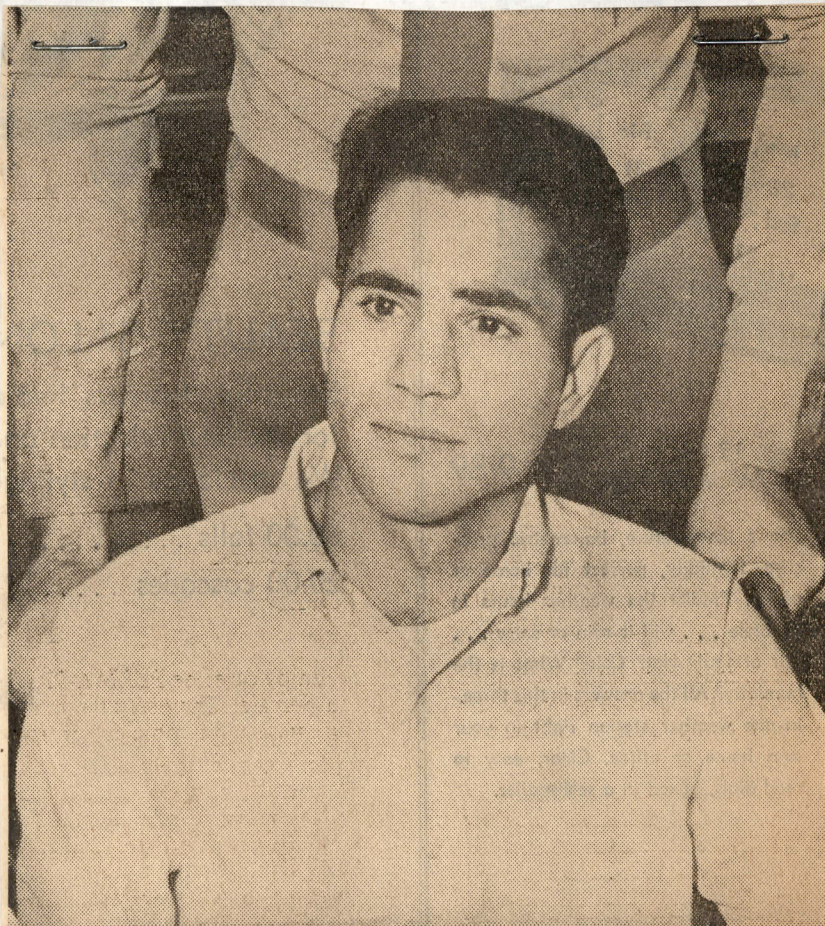
Now it is winter, the world is no newer, and those same leaves have long since fallen on a hillside in Virginia, skittering drily across the grave of Robert Francis Kennedy. Alongside the brother whose dreams he shared and from whose torch he took his fire, Robert Kennedy also faces now the city that was Camelot to both. The season advances, the world rolls, the people have selected another, not Kennedy.

And in the night, when the wind blows across the Potomac River and up the forlorn Arlington hillside of the dead, Robert's grave is lit by the fittful flicker of the eternal flame that burns above John, but shares the light.

One man decided that Robert F. Kennedy should not be President of the United States. The voters who might have elected him were disenfranchised by a gun. Hopes were pinned elsewhere or abandoned, old allegiances forgotten, new ones made—all because of one little man with a .22 pistol.

The assassin's name is Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, and though he has pleaded innocent, that he shot Kennedy is beyond dispute; he was seized before he finished shooting. What is pertinent, and what the defense will hinge upon, his attorney says, is "Why did he do it? Is he responsible?"

These questions may one day be answered, hopefully at Sirhan's trial which opens Tuesday. It would be socially profitable for us to know.



HIS NAME MEANS 'WANDERER'—He was injured in the war between the Arabs and Israelis in 1948, his father says of Sirhan Sirhan, not physically, but "woundings, sufferings in his head and heart."

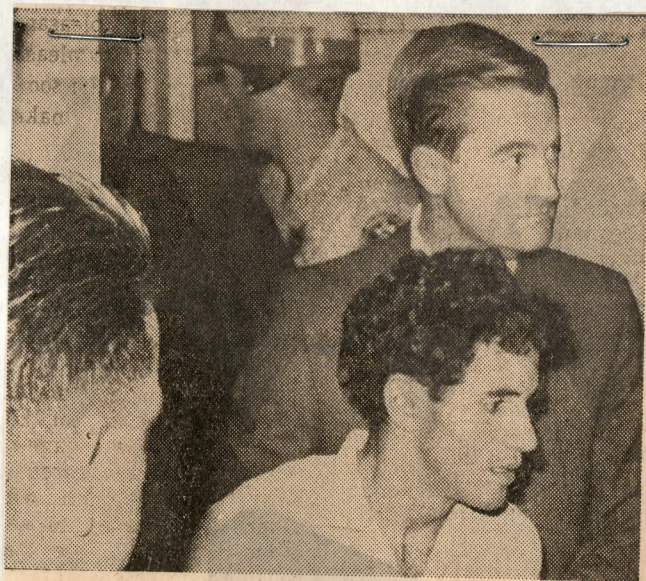


THE PATRIARCH—Bishara Sirhan, head of his family, states in his village near Jerusalem that son Sirhan suffered traumatic experiences in Arab-Israeli war in 1948.

UPI photo



A MOTHER'S TEARS—Mrs. Mary Sirhan, weeping in the arms of a neighbor, Mrs. Clarence C. Robinson, believed that her son Sirhan was the most promising of her children. Mrs. Sirhan attempted to keep her family together despite a divorce from her husband.



AT ARRAIGNMENT—Sirhan B. Sirhan is taken by officers into court for arraignment hours after the shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy at Ambassador.

Times photo

Sirhan Attorney Admits Telling Lie

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 4 (UPI)—A lawyer scheduled to defend Sirhan B. Sirhan on a charge of slaying Sen. Robert F. Kennedy admitted to a Federal grand jury Friday that he lied in court in another case.

Attorney Grant B. Cooper, a member of Sirhan's three-man defense team, spent three hours before a grand jury inquiring into certain aspects of the recent friars Club card cheating trial in which Cooper represented one of the defendants.

The grand jury is studying reports that Cooper obtained access to transcripts of secret grand jury hearings that preceded the Friars Club trial. The transcripts had not been made public, and were not supposed to be available to defense attorneys.

The matter came to light when a transcript of testimony given the grand jury by com-

dian Phil Silvers was found on a counsel table near Cooper in July during the Friars Club trial.

In conferences with U.S. District Court Judge William P. Gray at the time Cooper reportedly told the trial judge he found the Silvers transcript on a table in the court room.

"I didn't tell the truth," Cooper said Friday, "because it would have pointed a finger at my client."

Cooper declined to reveal where he got the transcripts, pleading the privacy of the lawyer-client relationship. He will appear in court again Monday on the issue.

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FILE
6-11-69
Cooper

The Washington Post _____
Times Herald *A-6* _____
The Washington Daily News _____
The Evening Star (Washington) _____
The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
Daily News (New York) _____
Sunday News (New York) _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Sun (Baltimore) _____
The Daily World _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____
Examiner (Washington) _____

62-587-A
NOT RECORDED

46 JAN 10 1969

Date JAN 5 1969

53 JAN 16 1969

Sirhan Defense Hinges On His Mental Capacity

By Ralph Dighton
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan goes to trial Tuesday on a charge of murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy—and a quirk in California law could save him from the gas chamber if he is found guilty.

The quirk is a hair-splitting technicality, reinforced by several decisions since 1949 but little known outside California, which recognizes a person may be legally sane yet still not fully responsible for his actions.

A number of legal and psychiatric authorities believe the 24-year-old Jordanian's counsel might use a defense known as "diminished responsibility" to seek a verdict short of first-degree murder and a lesser penalty than death.

Presentation of evidence by both sides is expected to take two months or longer. There are indications that more than 200 witnesses will be called.

Some are expected to say that Sirhan waited in a kitchen area of the Ambassador Hotel early last June 5 as Kennedy announced to a gathering of his supporters that he had won the California Democratic presidential primary.

Then, the prosecution will attempt to show, Sirhan began blazing away with a small-caliber pistol as Kennedy and others passed by.

Kennedy and five bystanders were wounded. The Senator died later in a hospital.

The setting of the trial is

Superior Court Department 107, an eighth-floor courtroom in the gray stone Hall of Justice.

Quarter-inch steel plates have been placed inside the courtroom's four windows—a precaution taken also for pre-trial hearings on the 13th floor, where Sirhan is held under heavy guard.

Quarantining the courtroom's 75 spectator seats will be a hand-picked squad of sheriff's officers, witness and newsmen. Although 114 reporters have been given credentials to cover the trial, there will be space in the courtroom for only 37. The others will observe by closed circuit television in a room four floors below.

Also seated in the courtroom will be Sirhan's mother, Mary, and brothers Adel, 29, and Munir, 21, of suburban Pasadena.

The cast charged with seeking justice for Sirhan will include:

- The presiding jurist, Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker, 69, a bushy-browed dean of the Los Angeles criminal bench.

- The three prosecutors, led by Lynn "Buck" Comp-ton, 46, pipe-puffing, one-time UCLA football player who won a Silver Star medal when he jumped into France with the 101st Airborne Division at Normandy. He is the county's chief deputy district attorney.

- Three for the defense, led by Russell B. Parsons,

69-year-old, bespectacled lawyer who has tried 5000 cases in nearly 50 years' practice. Parsons is proudest of his role in the 1954 Charles Cahan case, in which the California Supreme Court ruled that evidence illegally obtained cannot be used against a defendant in a criminal case.

The likelihood that Sirhan's attorneys may use the "diminished responsibility" defense arises from the fact that the position has several times won a reduced sentence or even acquittal. In most states, a defendant must be found either sane or insane; in California, he can be held partially insane.

Interviews with lawyers and psychiatrists show these avenues are open for Sirhan:

- The defense may offer

evidence that the act was not premeditated, which would make it second-degree murder punishable by five years to life in prison.

- The defense may try to prove that Sirhan's mental capacity was diminished to a point where he was not capable of malice. This would be manslaughter, punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

Diminished responsibility has been claimed in several cases when the defense could not establish legal insanity but could show the person was influenced by rage, fear, obsession, drugs or even alcohol.

Sirhan pleaded not guilty last Aug. 2.

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Subject

6-11-68

File

The Washington Post Times Herald *A-1*
The Washington Daily News _____
The Evening Star (Washington) _____
The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
Daily News (New York) _____
Sunday News (New York) _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Sun (Baltimore) _____
The Daily World _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____
Examiner (Washington) _____

Date *JAN 5 1969*

62-587-A
NOT RECORDED

40 JAN 10 1969

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22

Legal authorities pointed out that the plea of innocence did not necessarily mean Sirhan was denying he killed Kennedy. Since he is charged with murder with malice aforethought, the "not guilty" plea could have meant simply that he was denying malice.

Parsons, at a news conference following the plea, said:

"I haven't seen any evidence yet that he had any malice."

He also said the not guilty plea "permits us to show the what and why—what are the real issues — if he is the man, why did he do it?"

Parsons himself thus seemed to set the stage for a diminished-capacity defense—which need not be declared prior to the trial.

Paul Caruso, a Los Angeles defense attorney not involved in the Sirhan case, says: "The basic question is not whether Sirhan killed, but if he did, why did he do it? It could be that he wasn't killing a man, but killing a symbol. Kennedy had urged military aid for Israel, a country Sirhan hated. Is it murder to kill a symbol? To me, this betrays an obsession which could diminish his mental capacity."

Caruso, in an interview, cited a 1964 case in which a young woman took a pistol to a meeting with a brother-in-law who was her lover. She testified she had no intent to kill, only to force him to listen to her plea that he give up other

women. The brother-in-law moved on her menacingly and she fired five quick shots, wounding him severely. The man recovered. The woman was placed on probation.

"The defense showed that she was in a state of diminished capacity through terror," Caruso said, "because she kept on firing when it was no longer necessary. You will recall that Sirhan is accused of doing much the same thing. Sen. Kennedy was struck by three bullets and five other persons were wounded.

"The more bizarre the case, the more unreasonable the act, the better are the chances of a diminished-capacity defense."

Dr. Seymour Pollock of the University of Southern California has been retained by the prosecution to observe Sirhan, but any conclusions he may have reached have not been disclosed.

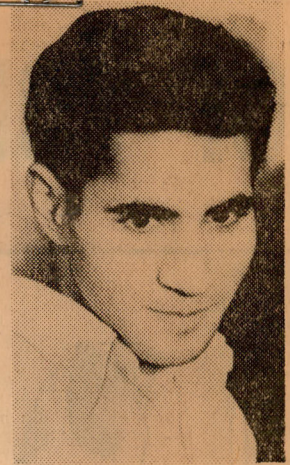
The concept of diminished responsibility has been developing in California law since 1949, when the State Supreme Court ruled a trial judge erred in barring psychiatric testimony even though the defendant did not plead insanity.

Since then, testimony by psychiatrists has been a major factor in reducing the verdict in several cases.

Dr. John M. Suarez, assistant professor of psychiatry at UCLA, said in an interview that the defense of diminished capacity has developed because California courts became dissatisfied with the inflexibility of the rule followed in most states—that a person is either same or insane, with no shades or gray in between.

He said he is not fully in agreement with the practice, however, because the psychiatrist is frequently put in the position of judging the degree of guilt.

Attorney Caruso said of the Sirhan case: "It looks like a hard one to defend, but it's actually a defense lawyer's dream. Defense counsel can't lose stature—anything short of the gas chamber is a victory."



SIRHAN B. SIRHAN

... trial opens Tuesday

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UPI-31

(SIRHAN)

LOS ANGELES--A LAWYER SCHEDULED TO DEFEND SIRHAN B. SIRHAN ON A CHARGE OF SLAYING SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY ADMITTED TO A FEDERAL GRAND JURY FRIDAY THAT HE LIED IN COURT IN ANOTHER CASE.

SIRHAN GOES INTO COURT TUESDAY IN ONE OF THE MOST PUBLICIZED TRIALS OF ALL TIME.

ATTORNEY GRANT B. COOPER, A MEMBER OF SIRHAN'S THREE-MAN DEFENSE TEAM, SPENT THREE HOURS BEFORE A GRAND JURY INQUIRING INTO CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE RECENT FRIAR'S CLUB CARD CHEATING TRIAL.

COOPER DEFENDED MAURICE H. FRIEDMAN, A LAS VEGAS, NEV., HOTEL AND CASINO DEVELOPER. FRIEDMAN AND FOUR OTHER DEFENDANTS WERE FOUND GUILTY OF CHEATING WEALTHY BUSINESSMEN AND SHOW PEOPLE OF AN ESTIMATED \$400,000 IN CROOKED CARD GAMES AT THE PLUSH STAGE CLUB IN BEVERLY HILLS.

THE GRAND JURY IS STUDYING REPORTS THAT COOPER OBTAINED ACCESS TO TRANSCRIPTS OF SECRET GRAND JURY HEARINGS THAT PRECEDED THE FRIARS CLUB TRIAL. THE TRANSCRIPTS HAD NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC, AND WERE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE AVAILABLE TO DEFENSE ATTORNEYS.

THE MATTER CAME TO LIGHT WHEN A TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY GIVEN THE GRAND JURY BY COMEDIAN PHIL SILVERS WAS FOUND ON A COUNSEL TABLE NEAR COOPER IN JULY DURING THE FRIARS CLUB TRIAL.

IN CONFERENCES WITH U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE WILLIAM P. GRAY AT THE TIME COOPER REPORTEDLY TOLD THE TRIAL JUDGE HE FOUND THE SILVERS TRANSCRIPT ON A TABLE IN THE COURT ROOM.

"I DIDN'T TELL THE TRUTH," COOPER SAID FRIDAY, "BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE POINTED A FINGER AT MY CLIENT."

THE ATTORNEY SAID HE SHOULD HAVE CLAIMED LAWYER-CLIENT PRIVILEGE AT THAT TIME, AND ADDED: "I DIDN'T THINK FAST ENOUGH."

COOPER TOLD THE GRAND JURY FRIDAY HE READ TRANSCRIPTS OF FOUR GRAND JURY WITNESSES BEFORE THEY WERE FURNISHED OFFICIALLY BY THE GOVERNMENT.

"HAD I BEEN ABLE TO GET COPIES OF OTHERS I WOULD HAVE READ THEM," COOPER TESTIFIED. "AS A MATTER OF FACT I TRIED TO GET THEM BUT I COULDN'T."

COOPER DECLINED TO REVEAL WHERE HE GOT THE TRANSCRIPTS, PLEADING THE PRIVACY OF THE LAWYER-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP.

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NOT RECORDED

 46 JAN 10 1969
 WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

59 JAN 21 1969

ORIGINAL FILED IN 106-3200-9

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Stolen and Forged Check May Have Been Cashed by Sirhan

Owner of Corona Store Says '66 Draft Was Made Out to and Endorsed by Accused Assassin of Robert Kennedy

Exclusive to The Times from a Staff Writer

CORONA—A forged check stolen from a construction company was cashed in a grocery store here in November, 1966, by a man believed to have been Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, the Corona police chief said Friday.

The alleged forgery, which was for \$81.57, went unnoticed by the owner of the store, Lyle Hattan, until Wednesday when he was contacted by the state Department of Justice and asked to turn the check over to the authorities.

Hattan said the check was made out in the name of Sirhan and was endorsed in his name.

When the check bounced, Hattan said, a police investigation found that nine bank checks had been stolen from the Altfillisch Construction Co. by someone who had broken in.

Sirhan's name had been typed onto one of the blank checks and the amount had been filled in by a mechanical device.

At the time of the forgery, police checking at the construction company were told that Sirhan did not work for the firm. (He did, however, work at that time as an exercise boy at a ranch owned by the company.)

Written off as a forgery, the case remained buried in the files of both the police and Hattan until the Justice Department apparently came upon the complaint while checking police files on another case.

Hattan, who says he cashes many checks from the construction company, said his wife cashed the forgery after being shown a driver's license with Sirhan's name.

Police Chief Joe Greer said it is believed Sirhan endorsed the check.

Despite the publicity surrounding Sirhan, Hattan said he didn't recall the bounced check with Sirhan's name until he was contacted by the Justice Department.

"It just stayed in my debt file for tax records. At the time that it bounced I didn't bother (to pursue the case). I didn't think my chance of collecting was any good," Hattan said.

Mr. Tolson _____
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Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2-1 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 12/7/68
Edition: Morning
Author:
Editor: Nick B. Williams
Title: Kensalt

Character:

or

Classification: LA-56-156

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

62-587-A
NOT RECORDED
170 JAN 10 1969

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

II-1 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 12/7/68

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor: Nick E. Williams

Title: Kensalt

Character:

or

Classification: LA-56-156

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

Around the Nation **A-10**

Sirhan Trial Delayed to Assist New Lawyer

LOS ANGELES—The trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy has been postponed until Jan. 7.

Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker granted the postponement to permit a new member of the defense team, attorney Grant B. Cooper, to study the case. Cooper, a veteran criminal lawyer here, has just finished another case. The Sirhan trial had been scheduled to start on Dec. 9.

The trial will be held in a steel-plated courtroom with closed-circuit television for reporters. There will not be any public television.

Ohio City Cited

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare says it has found apparent violations of the school desegregation provisions of the 1964 Civil Rights Act in the Middletown, Ohio, school system.

The law provides for a suspension of Federal aid to school districts practicing discrimination. A letter was sent to Middletown school officials asking for a reply about the apparent violations.

In Union, N.J., HEW has given the Board of Education until Dec. 14 to integrate one of its elementary schools. This action is the Government's first major edict on school desegregation north of the Mason-Dixon Line.

Other investigations are being made of reported violations in four other districts — Toledo, Ohio; McKeesport, Pa.; Waterbury, Conn., and Ferndale, Mich.

Mafia Figure Held

Attorney General Ramsey Clark announced the arrest of Russel L. Bufalino, one of the top Mafia figures in Pennsylvania, on charges of conspiring to transport \$25,000 worth of television sets in interstate commerce. It was the second arrest of a top Mafia figure in as many weeks. Last week, Stefano Magaddino, head of the Mafia in Western New York and Ontario, Canada, was arrested with five others on charges of interstate book-making.

The 64-year-old Bufalino has close ties with the Magaddino organization and at one time lived in Buffalo. Two of the men charged with him yesterday are from Buffalo. They are Salvatore Todaro, a 46-year-old dress manufacturer, and John Charles Sacco Jr., 41, who is now in the New York state prison at Attica.

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Sullivan ☒
Tavel ☒
Trotter ☒
Tele. Room ☒
Holmes ☒
Gandy ☒

Panthers Arrested

JERSEY CITY—Three men identified as members of the Black Panther Party were arrested on charges stemming from a hit-and-run machine gun attack on a police precinct station last Friday night.

Arrested were Isaiah Rowley, 24, Charles Hicks, 36, and Victor Perez, 19. Rowley said he was the New Jersey minister of defense for the Panthers.

Police said the attack on the station was in retaliation for arrest earlier of seven members of the Panthers. No one was injured.

The Washington Post **A-10**
Times Herald
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star (Washington)
The Sunday Star (Washington)
Daily News (New York)
Sunday News (New York)
New York Post
The New York Times
The Sun (Baltimore)
The Daily World
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer
People's World
Examiner (Washington)

Date **DEC 6 1968**

62-587-A
NOT RECORDED

184 JAN 9 1969

51 JAN 15 1969

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



United Press International

Prominent criminal lawyer, Grant B. Cooper, left, gets acquainted with Sirhan B. Sirhan in a Los Angeles jail. Cooper

and Russel E. Parsons, right, the other member of the defense team, won a delay of the Jordanian's trial until Jan. 7.

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SIRHAN 12/6 NX
 BY JACK V. FOX

LOS ANGELES (UPI)--SIRHAN B. SIRHAN, CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, WILL SPEND THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS IN A JAIL CELL, NOT IN A COURTROOM FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE.

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE HERBERT V. WALKER THURSDAY OVERRULED A PROSECUTION OBJECTION AND POSTPONED THE START OF SIRHAN'S TRIAL FOR THE THIRD TIME AT THE REQUEST OF THE DEFENSE.

THE TRIAL IS NOW SET TO BEGIN JAN. 7 IN A STEEL-PLATED COURTROOM WITH CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION CARRYING THE PROCEEDINGS TO AN OVERFLOW CROWD OF NEWSMEN FOUR FLOORS BELOW.

WALKER ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT BECAUSE HE INTENDS TO HAVE THE JURY LOCKED UP DURING THE TRIAL, ESTIMATED TO LAST ABOUT TWO MONTHS, HE MAY ALLOW JURORS' WIVES AND HUSBANDS TO VISIT THEM DURING WEEKENDS.

THE REASON FOR THE LATEST POSTPONEMENT WAS TO ALLOW GRANT B. COOPER, SIRHAN'S CHIEF DEFENDER, SUFFICIENT TIME TO PREPARE HIS CASE. ALTHOUGH COOPER WAS HIRED BY SIRHAN SHORTLY AFTER THE 24-YEAR-OLD JORDANIAN WAS ARRESTED JUNE 5 FOR FATALLY WOUNDING KENNEDY AT THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL, THE LAWYER'S ROLE IN THE CASE WAS KEPT SECRET BECAUSE HE WAS INVOLVED IN ANOTHER TRIAL.

AT THURSDAY'S 15-MINUTE COURT SESSION, THE PROSECUTION ARGUED IT WAS READY TO GO TO TRIAL ON MONDAY AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED. PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS HAVE OBJECTED TO EACH CONTINUANCE, FEARING A CLAIM COULD LATER BE RAISED THAT SIRHAN'S RIGHT TO A SPEEDY TRIAL WAS VIOLATED.

COOPER INDICATED AT A NEWS CONFERENCE THERE IS "NO PROBABILITY" THAT SIRHAN'S STRAIGHT PLEA OF INNOCENT WILL BE MODIFIED TO INNOCENT BY REASON OF INSANITY. THE DEFENDANT'S "MENTAL CONDITION" HOWEVER, WILL BE A MAJOR FACTOR IN SEEKING TO AVOID THE MAXIMUM PENALTY OF DEATH IN THE GAS CHAMBER.

COOPER SAID HE FEELS IT WILL BE "A DIFFICULT JOB" TO SELECT A JURY. HE SAID IT REMAINED TO BE SEEN IF THE PUBLICITY SURROUNDING THE CASE WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO IMPANEL AN IMPARTIAL JURY IN LOS ANGELES.

ASKED WHETHER HE MIGHT SEEK A CHANGE OF VENUE, COOPER REPLIED, "WHERE TO?"

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NOT RECORDED

184 JAN 9 1969

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Mr. Tolson _____
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END OF FRIARS TRIAL FREES HIM

Grant Cooper to Join in Defending Sirhan

Attorney Grant B. Cooper, prominent Los Angeles criminal lawyer, will join the defense of Sirhan B. Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, it now can be revealed.

Cooper, a veteran of some of Los Angeles' most publicized criminal trials, actually agreed to participate in Sirhan's defense last June, within two weeks after Sen. Kennedy was shot at the Ambassador.

But Cooper was then just beginning the defense of developer Maurice H. Friedman in the Friars Club card cheating conspiracy case. No one then expected that the federal court trial, which ended Monday, would last nearly six months.

Cooper feared that if his association with the Sirhan case came to the attention of jurors in the Friedman trial, it might be prejudicial to Friedman. It might even have caused a mistrial.

He told a few confidants that he was in the Sirhan case, but promised that if the news leaked out he would have to deny it. He was true to his word when, on June 27, a wire service let the cat out of the bag.

"Definitely, positively, unequivocally no," Cooper said in a statement to The Times at that time.

Cooper's entry into the case came about largely through the efforts of A. L. Wirin, chief counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California.

Sirhan originally was represented by the public defender. However, he let it be known through Wirin that he wanted to have private attorneys.

Wirin himself felt that, although the ability of the public defender's office was unquestioned, attorneys with public stature should be obtained.

He failed in efforts to have attorneys appointed by the court or named by the County Bar Assn. Wirin then took it upon himself to seek out lawyers willing to serve without recompense, and Cooper was one of those who agreed.

Cooper said Monday that he

received a letter from Sirhan within a few days after his arrest.

"He asked me to appear as his counsel," the attorney related. "I consulted with my client (Friedman), who said he had no objection as long as it was not made known before the verdict came in."

Cooper said he hopes to see Sirhan for the first time today.

When Sirhan's choice of an attorney was announced on June 19, only the name of Russell E. Parsons, one of Southern California's best known appeals lawyers, was made public.

Parsons revealed that he would be joined later by "a prominent man who has handled many prominent cases" but who was then representing another client in court.

It was learned later that attorney Emile Zola Beriman of New York, who attained a national reputation by defending a marine sergeant against manslaughter charges when six servicemen marched to their deaths in a tidal marsh, also would join the Sirhan defense.

Parsons obtained one postponement of Sirhan's trial from Nov. 1 to Dec. 9 because the "mystery attorney" who was to join the defense was still engaged in federal court.

But Parsons was seen visiting Cooper several times during recesses of the Friars Club trial, presumably keeping him up to date on developments in the Sirhan case.

Cooper told confidants, however, that he had not even consulted with Sirhan or members of his family. And he made it clear he would not be ready to go to trial until after the first of the year.

He and Parsons are expected to appear within the next few days before Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker to request another postponement so that Cooper may prepare for the trial.

It is anticipated that Judge Walker will grant the postponement, probably until Jan. 6.

Cooper, 65, has served as president of the Los Angeles County Bar Assn., president of the American College of Trial Lawyers and vice president of the State Bar of California. He has practiced law in California since 1927.

He first gained a reputation as a tough prosecutor

while in the district attorney's office from 1929 to 1935. He returned to that office as the chief deputy to the late Dist. Atty. John Dockweiler from 1940 to 1942.

But Cooper gained his greatest fame as a criminal defense lawyer over the last 20 years, particularly in murder cases. Although he rarely wins acquittals, he usually manages to get

hung juries or reduced charges.

The most famous was his defense of Dr. R. Bernard Finch, tried three times with Carole Tregoff for the murder of the West Covina physician's wife.

The first two trials in 1960 ended in hung juries. An associate then took over the defense of Dr. Finch and the pair were convicted in 1961.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-3 Los Angeles Times
 Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 12/3/68

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor: Nick B. Williams

Title: Kensalt

Character:

or

Classification: LA 56-156

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

62-587-9
 NOT RECORDED
 184 JAN 9 1969



ENTERS CASE—Grant B. Cooper
telling newsmen that he will join
in the defense of Sirhan B. Sirhan.
Times photo

Around the Nation *A-15*

Sirhan Names Chief Lawyer

LOS ANGELES — Sirhan B. Sirhan, the man accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, has chosen Grant Cooper, one of the leading criminal attorneys on the West Coast, as his chief defender at the murder trial.

Cooper is a former president of the Los Angeles Bar Association. As a defense attorney, he twice won a hung jury for Dr. Bernard Finch in the Finch-Tregoff murder trials.

Cooper agreed to take the case as a "duty." He was selected shortly after Sirhan was arrested in June, but his role has been kept a secret because he was defending a man in the Friars Club card-cheating case. He did not want his role in the Sirhan case known because he feared it might work against his client in the Friars Club trial.

Russell E. Parsons, a veteran appeals lawyer who has been Sirhan's attorney of record, will continue on the case, but Cooper will be the chief attorney.

Army Rejects Rudd

NEWARK, N.J.—Mark Rudd, leader of the student revolt at Columbia University last spring, was tentatively rejected for military service after a pre-induction physical.

Maj. Clement St. Martin of the Army Administration Center here, said he could not disclose the ailment doctors found in examining the 21-year-old student leader. He said Rudd could be ordered back for another examination in 30 days.

Rudd has said he will go into the Army if he is drafted, but he pledged he would "fight like hell

against the Army, from within the Army." He is the son of a retired Army officer.

Friars Club Trial

LOS ANGELES — Five men were convicted of cheating Hollywood celebrities and wealthy businessmen of more than \$400,000 in rigged gin rummy games at the Friars Club.

The defendants were Maurice Friedman, a Las Vegas investor; Benjamin Teitelbaum, co-owner of a Los Angeles card parlor; T. Warner Richardson, a former Las Vegas casino operator; Manuel Rickey Jacobs, a professional gambler, and Johnny Rosselli, a former labor racketeer.

U. S. District Judge William P. Gray set sentencing for Jan. 20.

Among the victims of the rigged games were singer Tony Martin, shoe magnate Harry Karl, who is married to actress Debbie Reynolds, and comedians Phil Silvers and Zeppo Marx.

3d Namer Released

NEW YORK—The third member of a Yemeni immigrant family accused of plotting to kill President-elect Nixon was freed on \$25,000 bond.

The last to be released on bond was 21-year-old Hussein Namer. His father, Ahmed, 43, and his brother, Abdo, were released in \$25,000 bond each last month.

From staff reports and news dispatches

Tolson ☒
DeLoach ☒
Mohr ☒
Bishop ☒
Casper ☐
Callahan ☐
Conrad ☒
Felt ☒
Gale ☒
Rosen ☒
Sullivan ☐
Tavel ☐
Trotter ☐
Tele. Room ☐
Holmes ☐
Gandy ☐

The Washington Post *A-15*
Times Herald ☐
The Washington Daily News ☐
The Evening Star (Washington) ☐
The Sunday Star (Washington) ☐
Daily News (New York) ☐
Sunday News (New York) ☐
New York Post ☐
The New York Times ☐
The Sun (Baltimore) ☐
The Daily World ☐
The New Leader ☐
The Wall Street Journal ☐
The National Observer ☐
People's World ☐
Examiner (Washington) ☐

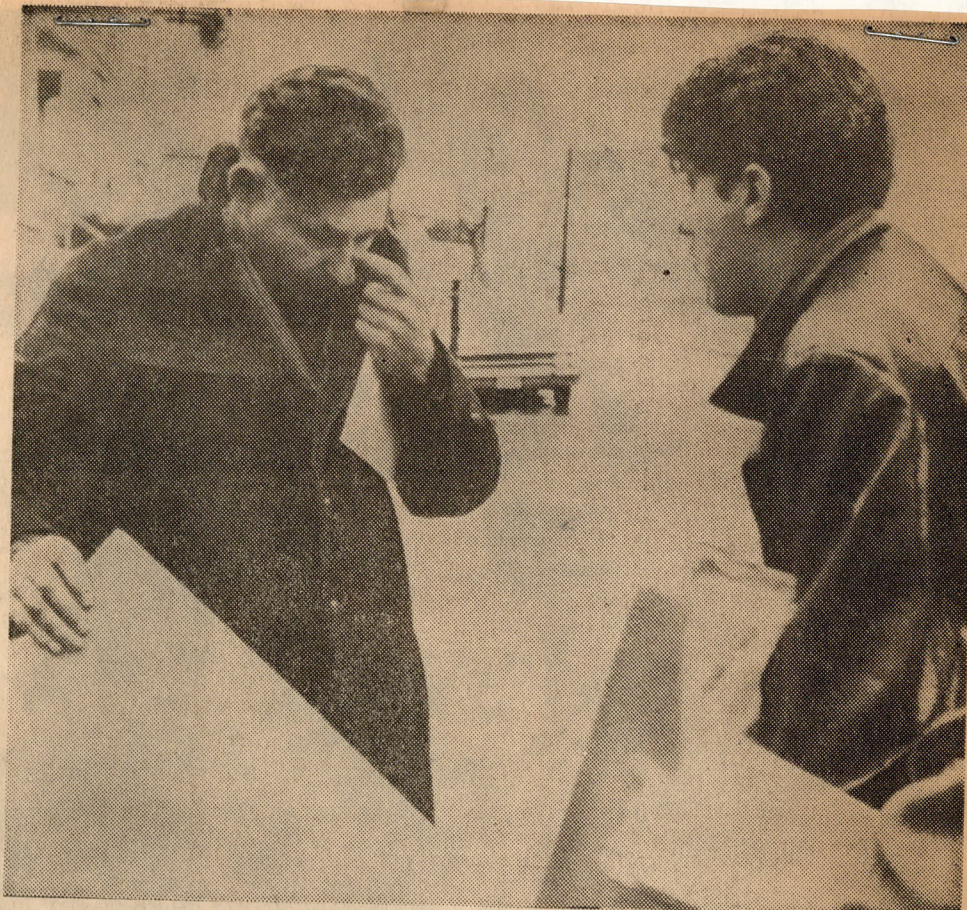
Date DEC 3 1968

DEC 59

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133 DEC 9 1968

56 DEC 12 1968



Associated Press

Mark Rudd, 21, a leader last spring of the Columbia University student revolt, reports for a pre-induction physical at

Irvington, N.J. He was accompanied by his father, Jacob, a retired Army officer. Rudd was tentatively rejected for service.

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UPI-98

(SIRHAN)

LOS ANGELES--A HEARING WILL BE HELD NEXT WEEK TO CONSIDER POSTPONEMENT OF THE TRIAL OF SIRHAN B. SIRHAN, ACCUSED OF THE MURDER OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, UNTIL AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR, SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE HERBERT V. WALKER DISCLOSED TODAY.

THE TRIAL OF THE 24-YEAR-OLD JORDANIAN IMMIGRANT HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO START DEC. 9.

WALKER ALSO REVEALED THAT THE PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE WILL BE ASKED AT THE HEARING IF THEY HAVE OBJECTION TO PLACING A HIDDEN TELEVISION CAMERA IN THE COURTROOM TO TRANSMIT THE TRIAL BY CLOSED CIRCUIT TO AN AUXILIARY COURT ROOM TO BE USED BY THE PRESS.

WALKER SAID MORE THAN 100 NEWSMEN HAD ASKED FOR CREDENTIALS TO COVER THE TRIAL BUT THAT THERE WERE ONLY 35 SEATS FOR THE NEWS MEDIA IN THE EIGHTH FLOOR COURTROOM OF THE HALL OF JUSTICE ASSIGNED TO THE SIRHAN TRIAL.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY RUSSELL E. PARSONS WAS EXPECTED TO ASK FOR THE CONTINUANCE ON THE GROUNDS THAT ANOTHER ATTORNEY COMING INTO THE CASE -- AND NOT YET IDENTIFIED -- IS STILL TIED UP ON ANOTHER TRIAL AND NEEDS TIME TO FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF WITH THE SIRHAN DEFENSE.

WALKER SAID THE HEARING WOULD BE HELD IN THE NEXT 10 TO 12 DAYS. DIST. ATTY. EVELLE YOUNGER WAS EXPECTED TO OBJECT TO THE DELAY BUT IT WAS GENERALLY EXPECTED THE POSTPONEMENT WOULD BE GRANTED AND THAT SIRHAN WOULD NOT GO TO TRIAL BEFORE JAN. 6.

WALKER SAID HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE USE OF THE CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION WHICH WAS WORKED OUT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CALIFORNIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMITTEE.

11/18--JJ234PES

62-587-A
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46 JAN 9 1969

FILE

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79 JAN 9- 1969

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296A HFR

SIRHAN 11/14 HC
 ADV FOR AMS SUN NOV. 17

BY JACK V. FOX

LOS ANGELES (UPI)--THE LAWYER DEFENDING SIRHAN B. SIRHAN
 CONCEDES THAT AS MANY AS 100 PERSONS SAW HIS CLIENT SHOOT SEN.
 ROBERT F. KENNEDY OR WERE WITNESS TO HIS CAPTURE.

YET SIRHAN HAS ENTERED A STRAIGHT PLEA OF INNOCENT IN THE MURDER
 TRIAL SCHEDULED TO START DEC. 9 BUT LIKELY TO BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER
 THE TURN OF THE YEAR.

RUSSELL B. PARSONS, THE VETERAN SPECIALIST ON APPEALS IN CRIMINAL
 CASES, IS ASSEMBLING HIS DEFENSE ON THE "WHY" OF THE ASSASSINATION OF
 THE BROTHER OF THE LATE PRESIDENT.

THE "WHY" IS CERTAIN TO BE ANSWERED IN PART BY THE "MENTAL
 MAKEUP" OF THE 24-YEAR-OLD JORDANIAN IMMIGRANT. A COURT-APPOINTED
 PSYCHIATRIST HAS EXAMINED SIRHAN ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND HE AND
 HE AND OTHER SPECIALISTS HAVE MADE TESTS BUT THE INFORMATION HAS BEEN
 MADE AVAILABLE UNDER LAW ONLY TO THE DEFENSE.

LYNN D. COMPTON, CHIEF DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY, ANTICIPATES
 THAT SIRHAN'S MENTAL CONDITION WILL BE THE PRIME ARGUMENT OF THE
 DEFENSE. HE NOTES IT STILL MAY SEEK TO AMEND THE PLEA TO ONE OF NOT
 GUILTY BY REASON OF INSANITY.

COMPTON BELIEVES IT IS LIKELY AN ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO
 DEMONSTRATE THAT SIRHAN HAS "DIMINISHED CAPACITY"--NOT SUFFICIENT
 IMPAIRMENT FOR ACQUITTAL BUT LEADING TO THE ARGUMENT HE WAS INCAPABLE
 OF PREMEDITATION AND THEREFORE NOT SUBJECT TO THE SUPREME PENALTY
 OF DEATH IN THE GAS CHAMBER.

ONE PRINCIPAL QUESTION IS WHETHER SIRHAN WILL GO TO THE WITNESS
 STAND. IT IS ONE THAT PARSONS IS NOT ANSWERING.
 HE SAYS THAT WILL BE DECIDED WHEN THE TIME COMES.

AN EGYPTIAN JOURNALIST WRITING FOR A CAIRO NEWSPAPER HAS QUOTED
 A SIRHAN BROTHER AS SAYING THE ACCUSED HAS DECIDED TO MAKE NO
 STATEMENT WHATSOEVER UNLESS THE TELEVISION NETWORKS ARE ALLOWED TO FILM
 AND BROADCAST THE ENTIRE TRIAL.

REC-59

62-587-A

NOT RECORDED

133 DEC 9 1968

56 DEC 12 1968

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE
 2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

CONSIDERING THE COURT GAG ON PUBLICITY AND THE SECURITY MEASURES SURROUNDING SIRHAN EVER SINCE HIS SEIZURE IN THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL ON JUNE 6, THIS IS NOT CONSIDERED EVEN A REMOTE POSSIBILITY.

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE HERBERT V. WALKER ALREADY HAS ANNOUNCED THE JURY WILL BE LOCKED UP IN HOTEL ROOMS EVERY NIGHT ONCE THE ACTUAL TRIAL BEGINS IN THE EIGHTH FLOOR COURTROOM OF THE HALL OF JUSTICE WHERE SIRHAN IS IMPRISONED ON THE 13TH FLOOR.

THE ROOM IS ONLY 40 FEET SQUARE WITH SEATS IN THE SPECTATOR AREA FOR 75 PERSONS--THE MAJORITY OF WHICH WILL GO TO THE NEWS MEDIA. WALKER HAS DECIDED AGAINST ONE PROPOSAL TO INSERT A BULLET-PROOF GLASS PANEL BETWEEN THE PUBLIC SECTION AND THE AREA TO BE OCCUPIED BY THE DEFENDANT, WITNESSES, JURY, JUDGE AND ATTORNEYS.

IT IS BELIEVED THE TRIAL WILL LAST FOR MONTHS, POSSIBLY INTO THE SPRING. THE PROSECUTION HAS MORE THAN 110 POTENTIAL WITNESSES TO CALL. IT HAS TALKED TO MORE THAN 2,000 PERSONS IN FOLLOWING UP EVERY LEAD NO MATTER HOW FRIVOLOUS.

SUCH METICULOUS PREPARATION OF THE CASE PLUS THE ALTERATIONS MADE IN THE JAIL AND COURTROOMS TO INSURE SECURITY ALREADY HAS COST THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA MORE THAN A QUARTER MILLION DOLLARS.

PARSONS, HIS INVESTIGATOR, MICHAEL MCGOWAN, AND THE PSYCHIATRISTS ARE THE ONLY ONES EXCEPT JAIL PERSONNEL WHO HAVE BEEN PERMITTED IN THE TWO-CELL BLOCK WHERE SIRHAN IS UNDER 24-HOUR SURVEILLANCE.

EVEN SIRHAN'S MOTHER, ON HER VISITS, HAS BEEN REQUIRED TO STAY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BARS.

PARSONS SAYS CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SIRHAN'S DEFENSE SO FAR HAVE TOTALLED \$105, MOST OF THEM IN SMALL AMOUNTS FROM EUROPE. THE ATTORNEY SAYS HE IS WORKING WITHOUT FEE AND DOES NOT YET KNOW HOW THE OVERALL EXPENSES WILL BE BORNE.

HIS INVESTIGATOR, MCGOWAN, SAYS HIS SMALL STAFF HAS INTERVIEWED AT LEAST 500 PERSONS AND STILL HAS MUCH WORK TO DO.

APPOINTMENT OF A PROMINENT SECOND DEFENSE ATTORNEY TO CONDUCT THE COURTROOM PHASE OF THE TRIAL IS EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED THE END OF THIS MONTH.

ADV FOR AMS SUN NOV 17

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. DeLoach _____
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Attempt to Bar Seized Sirhan Papers Defeated

Motion to Suppress Notes Taken Without Warrant Is Denied

BY RON EINSTOSS

Times Staff Writer

Sirhan B. Sirhan's lawyer failed Tuesday in his attempt to bar the prosecution from using material seized from the suspect's home on June 5, 10 hours after he allegedly shot Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker's ruling denying a motion by attorney Russell E. Parsons to suppress the material paves the way for prosecutors to use a notebook found in the defendant's Pasadena home which reportedly contains the written notation:

"Kennedy must be assassinated before June 5, 1968."

A press conference followed the nearly two-hour session in a makeshift courtroom on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice.

At it, Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton said he and coprosecutors John E. Howard and David N. Fitts would use whichever of those documents (taken from Sirhan's home) they decide are helpful and relevant to the case.

Asked if he felt that the memo relating to the assassination of Sen. Kennedy fell into that category, Compton replied:

"That would be a significant piece of evidence."

No Warrant Existed

Compton used the same word—significant—to describe Judge Walker's decision and he said he was "happy" the jurist held that police had reasonable cause to search Sirhan's room, although they did not have a warrant.

In making his ruling, Judge Walker passed only on the issue of whether the material was lawfully obtained, not on whether it later will be admitted into evidence if the prosecution attempts to do so.

Some of the items, Compton conceded, might not be relevant or material to the case.

Parsons, though he battled to keep Sirhan's writings out of evidence, did not seem to be unhappy with Judge Walker's decision.

"A very competent judge did not agree with us (that there was an unlawful search and seizure)," he said. "But sometimes when a judge rules against you it becomes helpful."

Parsons explained that "our attention might now be directed to a more careful search and study of why these things were said and done," apparently referring to the writings and the shooting of Sen. Kennedy.

The notebooks and other material found in Sirhan's room, he added, "may indicate something" about his client to psychiatrists.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

II-1 Los Angeles Times
 Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 10/23/68
 Edition: Home
 Author: Ron Einstross
 Editor: Nick B. Williams
 Title: KENSALT

Character:

or

Classification: LA 56-156
 Submitting Office: Los Angeles

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Emotional Stability Factor

Parsons would not elaborate but it is understood that some of Sirhan's notations might be of the type which would tend to reflect on the 24-year-old defendant's emotional stability.

Parsons said he did not intend to appeal the judge's ruling "because that would delay the trial," which now is set for Dec. 9.

During the hearing on whether Sirhan's belongings were legally seized, Sirhan's older brother, Adel, 30, testified that he gave police permission to search the room of the accused assassin.

Called as a defense witness, Adel said that after telling investigating officers he had nothing to hide, he consented to their request to search his brother's room.

He said he pointed out to them, however, that it was his mother's home, but that he preferred that they not contact her because she didn't know at the time of her son's involvement.

Mrs. Mary Sirhan, following her smartly dressed and well-groomed son to the witness stand, adamantly declared that she never gave anyone permission to search the defendant's room.

"I never was asked," she explained.

Mrs. Sirhan also said she did not give Adel permission to allow the search of Sirhan's room in the family home at 696 E. Howard St.

At Work in School

The woman said she was at work at a church-sponsored nursery school in Pasadena at the time of the 10:30 a.m. search and did not learn of her son's involvement in the case until sometime between noon and 1 p.m. that day—or about 12 hours after the shooting.

The slender defendant

again appeared to enjoy his stay in the courtroom, although at times he showed some nervousness. He smiled frequently and seemed particularly pleased as Parsons cross-examined two prosecution witnesses, both police officers.

During Adel Sirhan's testimony it was revealed that he may have been the one who supplied the positive identification that his brother was the one who shot Sen. Kennedy.

He said a younger brother, Munir, 21, had gone to work the morning of June 5 and saw a picture of Sirhan in the newspaper.

Munir immediately went home and woke up Adel, the witness said, and told him of the picture he had seen. The two of them then went to a newsstand and purchased a paper.

"The picture of the assassin was on the front page . . . it was him (referring to the defendant)," Adel said.

Adel told of going immediately to the Pasadena Police Department and arriving about 9:15 a.m. He said he told officers there that the person in the picture was his brother, Sirhan.

Adel's arrival at the Police Department followed by only one hour Sirhan's arraignment in court where he declined to reveal his identity.

At that time, he said his name was "John Doe."

Adel said he was interviewed by two Los Angeles police officers and an FBI

agent, told them that the assassination suspect was his brother and gave them permission to search Sirhan's room.

Muir testified that he did not give officers permission to search his brother's room.

Sgt. William E. Brandt, testifying as a prosecution witness, said he conducted the search only after obtaining Adel's consent.

He identified all the items taken. He said they later were booked as evidence and then turned over to the FBI.

Sgt. Brandt said the reason the search was made was to uncover any evidence of a possible conspiracy in the shooting of Sen. Kennedy.

"We were interested in evidence of a possible conspiracy and of any other persons who might be involved," he explained.

His partner in the investigation, Dante A. Lodolo, also testified that Adel gave his permission to search Sirhan's room.

As the court session began Tuesday, Compton stipulated that police did not have a search warrant and that at the time of the search Sirhan had not yet identified himself.

Meanwhile, Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger disclosed that he has petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court for a review of the June 7 court order restricting publicity in the case.

At the press conference, Compton said he hopes the highest court will act as quickly as possible on Younger's request.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. DeLoach _____
 Mr. Mohr _____
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 Mr. Callahan _____
 Mr. Conrad _____
 Mr. Felt _____
 Mr. Gale _____
 Mr. Rosen ✓
 Mr. Sullivan ✓
 Mr. Tavel _____
 Mr. Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Miss Holmes _____
 Miss Gandy _____

L.A. Weekend... Development In The Case of Sirhan

Another development in the case of Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused as the assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, coupled with the arrest of a Montreal man charged with the murder of a Hollywood registered nurse, headline the news in Southern California this weekend.

There were also at least two deaths, one on the highway, and one resulting from a knife fight.

Sirhan will return to his armored courtroom Tuesday for pre-trial rulings on suppressing diaries taken from Sirhan's home.

Judge Herbert V. Walker will be asked to suppress from evidence diaries allegedly kept by Sirhan, including the notation that Kennedy must be killed before June 5, anniversary of the six-day Arab-Israeli war. Kennedy was shot early June 5.

Sirhan's attorney, Russell E. Parsons, has asked that the diaries be kept out of the trial on grounds they were improperly taken from Sirhan's home after his arrest.

Mayor Sam Yorty revealed the contents of the diaries in a press conference before Sir-

han was indicted by the Grand Jury June 7.

Judge Walker last week set Dec. 9 as the opening date for selection of a jury to hear the Sirhan trial. He said he would recess the sessions Dec. 23 for the Christmas holidays and resume proceedings Jan. 2.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-2 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 10/20/68
 Edition: Night Final
 Author:
 Editor: Donald Goodenow
 Title: KENSALT

Character:

or

Classification: LA 56-156
 Submitting Office: Los Angeles

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Both Sides Agree Sirhan Was Alone

Inquiry Indicates No Conspiracy; Judge Postpones Trial Until Dec. 9

BY RON EINSTOSS

Times Staff Writer

Both the prosecution and Sirhan B. Sirhan's own attorney Monday ruled out any conspiracy in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Spokesmen for the prosecution and the defense voiced their parallel views—based on a massive police investigation—just before Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker postponed the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant's trial from Nov. 1 to Dec. 9.

During the session before Judge Walker, Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton turned over to the defense 111 statements of prospective witnesses, transcripts of six interviews with Sirhan by investigators and a seven-page report on police handling of Sirhan from the time of his arrest until he was remanded to custody of the sheriff.

Other Information 'Negative'

Then, at a short time later, Compton advised Judge Walker that:

All the information dealing with the investigation of other possible suspects "is negative and of little value to anyone."

Later, at a press conference, attorney Russell E. Parsons, who is defending Sirhan, supported Compton's statement concerning the absence of a conspiracy when he said:

"We have seen no evidence of a conspiracy."

It marked the first time that the prosecution has given clear indication that it was convinced Sirhan was acting on his own when he allegedly shot Sen. Kennedy and wounded five others at the Ambassador in the early morning of June 5.

Sirhan seemed to enjoy his 58-minute session in court. Sitting in a padded swivel chair, he swung back and forth and from side to side, leaning over from time to time to confer with Parsons.

At Parsons' press conference which followed the adjournment of the court proceedings, however, the attorney said Sirhan is getting increasingly nervous as his trial approaches.

Parsons revealed for the first time Monday that he will be joined by two other lawyers in defending Sirhan. In addition to a previously indicated local attorney, who is now engaged in a federal trial, Parsons said a "prominent" New York lawyer will be coming into the case.

He refused to divulge the name of either attorney, explaining, "it wouldn't be right to do so at this time."

It was learned, however, that the New York lawyer is Emile Zola Berman. He is considered to be one of the best civil trial attorneys in that city.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. DeLoach _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Bishop _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-1 LOS ANGELES TIMES
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 10/15/68
Edition: Home
Author: Ron Einstoss
Editor: Nick B. Williams
Title: KENSALT

Character: _____
or
Classification: LA 56-156
Submitting Office: Los Angeles
☐ Being Investigated

51 OCT 25 1968

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Parris Island Case

Berman attained a national reputation in 1956 when he defended Marine Staff Sgt. Matthew C. McKeon against charges of manslaughter, oppression and drinking on duty in a court-martial at the Parris Island, S.C., Marine Base.

Sgt. McKeon, accused of marching 74 young marines into a tidal marsh, was convicted of negligent homicide (six of the servicemen drowned) and of drinking on duty. He was reduced to private and imprisoned for three months.

Press accounts of the trial described Berman, a former Air Force colonel, as being a "colorful" and aggressive advocate.

Monday's court session was scheduled at the request of Parsons for three purposes:

1—To postpone the trial date from Nov. 1.

2—For arguments on a defense motion to obtain evidence the prosecution intends to use during the trial.

3—To suppress any evidence taken without a search warrant from Sirhan's room in his mother's home several hours after the shootings.

Will Sequester Jury

After Judge Walker informed Parsons, who sought it, and the prosecutors, who opposed it, that he intended to sequester the jury because "I think it must be done," the jurist set the Dec. 9 trial date.

Sirhan waived an earlier trial.

Judge Walker said the selection of a jury and "four to six alternates" could begin at that time.

If the jury is selected before Dec. 23, he said he would not swear in the panel until after New Year's Day. This would allow the jurors to spend the holidays at home.

If the jury is not selected by Dec. 23, Judge Walker said he would recess the trial until about Jan. 2 when the picking of a jury could resume.

There would seem to be little likelihood a jury could be selected between the time the trial starts and Christmas. Parsons, in fact, said "it would be a miracle" if one was.

The prosecution, represented in court by Compton and Dep. Dist. Attys. John E. Howard and David N. Fitts, did not oppose any of Parsons' requests for statements of witnesses or reports of police officers.

Judge Walker ordered them to turn over only that evidence now in their

possession and said he did not expect them to act "as messengers" for the defense in obtaining any information which they did not have.

Such information, the jurist suggested, should be obtained in other ways—such as by subpoenaing it—by the defense.

Of the 111 statements given to Parsons in court, 67 of them came from persons who were present in the Ambassador the night Kennedy was shot.

Other Statements

Another 15 statements were those taken by police and FBI investigators from persons who had seen Sirhan at any target or pistol range within six months of the alleged crimes.

Compton made his statement that there was no conspiracy after Parsons told the court that he was satisfied that the prosecution has turned over all the evidence he is seeking.

Compton said his office has separated all its evidence into three categories:

1—"The witnesses we intend to use during the trial."

2—"The witnesses who have some peripheral information, but who we do not intend to use."

3—"That miscellaneous information dealing with the investigation of other possible suspects."

He refused to comment on the latter remark except to say that all that information "is negative" and "would be of little value to anyone."

However, it is known that a large police task force as well as FBI agents ran down every report

which even remotely suggested that a conspiracy existed.

Possibilities indicating a conspiracy which were rejected after full investigation included:

1—That a woman wearing a polka dot dress and another man accompanied Sirhan to the Ambassador the night of the shooting and when leaving after the shots were fired, were reported to have cried, "We shot him."

(The woman who told police she had seen and heard this later admitted that her statement was a fabrication.)

2—A witness to the shooting claimed to have seen a girl in a polka dot dress standing beside Sirhan just prior to the shooting.

(This witness admitted that his statement was false and had been made up by him after a conversation with the witness who first told police of the woman in the polka dot dress.)

3—A range master at a San Gabriel Valley gun club who saw Sirhan on June 4 said he overheard a woman tell Sirhan, "get the hell away from me. Someone might recognize us."

(This witness later admitted fabricating the conversation he claimed to have overheard.)

4—A man told investigators that he was with Sirhan prior to the shooting and indicated that he

and Sirhan were part of a conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

(The man later admitted making up the story.)

5—A self-styled minister said he gave Sirhan and a male companion a ride on June 3 and that after dropping Sirhan off at the Ambassador for a few minutes made an arrangement to sell the defendant a horse for \$300. He said that after the shooting he received two telephone calls telling him to forget

about his "deal" with Sirhan.

(A polygraph examination given to the man indicating that he was not telling the truth and additional investigation disclosed that during the time Sirhan allegedly was with him he was home with his family.)

At the press conference, Parsons, without indicating what it would be, also said Sirhan does have a "valid" defense against the charges facing him.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Battle Due On Sirhan Notebook Evidence

The same court session heard Compton announce that the district attorney's office was satisfied that Sirhan had no accomplices, and that there was no conspiracy in the Kennedy shooting.

As to the Sirhan diaries, or notebooks—Parsons insists that they were taken illegally because the police who searched the Sirhan home were not armed with a search warrant.

There is also disagreement over the manner in which the seizure was accomplished.

Compton will produce three police witnesses next week. Parsons also will call witnesses. One of the reasons for yesterday's delay was that a defense witness is out of the state and will not be available until next week.

At a June 6 news conference, Mayor Sam Yorty announced the seizure of the Sirhan diaries. The Mayor said one of them contained the sentence:

"Kennedy has to be assassinated before June 5, 1968"—the first anniversary of the six-day Israeli blitz in the Mideast.

At yesterday's session Deputy Dist. Atty. David N. Pitts, an associate of Compton, turned over to Parsons the names and statements of 120 witnesses questioned by police and the FBI in the Kennedy assassination investigation.

These included 67 persons who allegedly saw Sirhan at the Ambassador Hotel the night of June 4, and witnessed his arrest following the shooting early June 5. The list included Speaker Jesse Unruh, Rafer Johnson, George Plimpton, Hugh McDonald, assistant press secretary to the slain senator, and several employees of the hotel.

Also turned over to Parsons were transcripts of recordings of six police interrogations of Sirhan made between his arrest and his arraignment about 8 a.m. June 5 in the court of Municipal Judge Joan Dempsey.

At a news conference following yesterday's hearing, Parsons

took pains to point out that no attorney was present with Sirhan during these investigations.

He also said that there was "serious doubt" that his client had been informed of his constitutional rights before these interrogations took place.

The discovery proceeding also raised the question of whether there had been violence during Sirhan's questioning. Parsons sought and got the statement of Officers Fred Willoughby and Eugene H. Austen, in response to a question about police who may have seen Sirhan kick a coffee cup out of Willoughby's hand.

Also sought and given the defense were the names and statements of 15 witnesses who allege to have seen Sirhan target shooting at the San Gabriel Valley Country club the day prior to Kennedy's shooting.

Given the defense, too, were the names and statements of four men of Arabic surname who allegedly spent time with Sirhan prior to the Kennedy shooting.

In deciding on postponement of the trial, Judge Walker made it clear that he intends to sequester the jury—that is, order them locked up during the trial.

He said jury selection would begin Dec. 9 and continue through Dec. 23, at which time he will recess the trial for the holidays.

The jurors will not be sworn until following the recess, Judge Walker said, but after they are sworn they will be locked up, be locked up.

Purpose of the sequestering is to make certain jurors see no publicity on the case which might prejudice their verdict.

Judge Walker said the press had been very cooperative in the case so far, but, he concluded:

"There is a responsible press and an irresponsible press, and I can't control either one of them and I wouldn't want to try."

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Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

**A-1 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.**

Date: 10/15/68
Edition: Night Final
Author:
Editor: Donald Goodenow
Title: KENSALT

Character:
or
Classification: LA 56-156
Submitting Office: LOS ANGELES
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S. Putz

SIRHAN 10/5 NX
 LOS ANGELES (UPI)--A REQUEST TO POSTPONE THE START OF SIRHAN B. SIRHAN'S TRIAL ON CHARGES OF KILLING SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY PRODUCED THE FIRST SHARP CONFLICT BETWEEN THE DEFENSE AND PROSECUTION. DEFENSE ATTORNEY RUSSELL E. PARSONS CONTENDED FRIDAY THE JURORS SHOULD BE LOCKED UP NIGHTLY DURING THE TRIAL, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN NOV. 1 AND EXPECTED TO LAST TWO MONTHS. PARSONS ASKED THAT THE TRIAL BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR BECAUSE IT WOULD BURDEN THE JURORS TO BE LOCKED UP OVER THE THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS. THE DEFENSE REQUEST FOR A CONTINUANCE HIGHLIGHTED SIRHAN'S SIXTH APPEARANCE IN COURT SINCE HE WAS ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF ASSASSINATING KENNEDY AT THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL LAST JUNE 5. THE 24-YEAR-OLD JORDANIAN SMILED AND WAVED TO HIS MOTHER AND BROTHER BUT SAID NOTHING DURING HIS SIX-MINUTE APPEARANCE IN COURT. PARSONS SAID LATER HIS CLIENT WAS GETTING INCREASINGLY "NERVOUS" AS THE TRIAL APPROACHED BUT HE USUALLY WAS IN GOOD SPIRITS. CHIEF DEPUTY DIST. ATTY. LYNN COMPTON DID NOT COMMENT IN COURT ON PARSONS' REQUEST FOR A DELAY. 3 591S 32.3, -15342-4S. HOWEVER, THE PROSECUTION WOULD OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPT TO SEQUESTER THE JURY. "IT PUTS A TERRIBLE BURDEN ON A JURY TO BE IN WHAT AMOUNTS TO SOLITARY CONFINEMENT FOR TWO OR THREE MONTHS," COMPTON SAID. "WE WOULD PREFER TO RELY ON THEIR GOOD JUDGMENT AND INTEGRITY." PARSONS ARGUED IN COURT THE CASE WAS OF "SUCH MAGNITUDE" THAT THE JURY SHOULD CONSTANTLY BE UNDER THE GUARD OF BAILIFFS WHEN OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM. HE SAID THE U.S. SUPREME COURT HAS SUGGESTED SUCH A PROCEDURE AS A MEANS OF PREVENTING JURORS FROM FINDING OUT ABOUT PUBLICITY AND EXTRA-JUDICIAL MATTERS. COMPTON SAID THAT IF THE JURY IS ORDERED LOCKED UP DURING THE TRIAL, IT PROBABLY WOULD BE BEST TO POSTPONE THE START UNTIL AFTER THE HOLIDAYS. JUDGE RICHARD SCHAUER, WHO PRESIDED AT THE FRIDAY SESSION, DID NOT ACT ON THE DEFENSE REQUEST FOR A CONTINUANCE, PREFERRED INSTEAD TO LET THE TRIAL JUDGE, HERBERT V. WALKER, DECIDE THE MATTER. HE SET OCT. 14 AS THE DATE FOR A HEARING ON THE POSTPONEMENT MOTION AND ON PREVIOUS DEFENSE MOTIONS TO SUPPRESS CERTAIN EVIDENCE OBTAINED BY POLICE FROM SIRHAN'S PASADENA HOME AND BE GIVEN ACCESS TO EVIDENCE HELD BY THE PROSECUTION.

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE
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AMONG THE EVIDENCE PARSONS WANTS TO EXAMINE IS AN INCH-THICK "BOOK" OF FBI EVIDENCE ON THE ASSASSINATION. THE LAWYER SAID THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LET HIM TAKE A LOOK AT IT, BUT HE WANTS TO KNOW ITS CONTENTS IN DETAIL. UNDER CALIFORNIA LAW, THE DEFENSE HAS THE RIGHT OF DISCOVERY--A CHANCE TO SEE THE PROSECUTION'S EVIDENCE.

AT A NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER THE SESSION, PARSONS SAID SIRHAN IS STILL GETTING LETTERS EITHER PRAISING OR CONDEMNING HIM.

"ROBERT KENNEDY WAS A MAN WHO WAS EITHER LOVED OR HATED," PARSONS SAID. "SOME OF THESE LETTERS COMMEND SIRHAN AND ONE MAN WROTE THAT HE WISHED HE COULD HAVE DONE IT."

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Legal Skirmishes May Mark Sirhan Return to Court Today

BY RON EINSTOSS

Times Staff Writer

Sirhan B. Sirhan returns to court today and for the first time his appearance is expected to be marked by legal skirmishes between opposing attorneys.

The previous six times he appeared before the bench could be classified as being of a routine nature, such as arraignment, plea and postponements.

But this time Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker will be asked to rule on three defense motions, all of which could require some argument.

Russell E. Parsons, who is defending the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant charged with the election-night slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and the wounding of five others, is seeking:

1—A postponement of the trial now set for Nov. 1.

2—A court order directing prosecutors to turn over to him copies of all statements taken from witnesses, photographs and reports of investigating agencies, including the police and FBI.

Suppression of Evidence

3 — The suppression of certain evidence Parsons claims was taken without a search warrant from Sirhan's room in his mother's Pasadena home several hours after the shooting.

Parsons, because legal precedent is on his side, is conceded a good chance of getting most of what he wants.

It is certain that the case will not go to trial on Nov. 1, partly because the monumental preparations for security and the handling of news media have not yet been completed and also because the lawyer who is expected to assist Parsons in defending Sirhan still is engaged in another matter.

Because Judge Walker has made known his plans to sequester the jury, Parsons, who favors such a move, wants a trial date after Jan. 1.

That would insure that the jury is not locked up over the holidays.

It does not appear he will be successful.

The court's present intention reportedly is to begin the jury selection in early December, with a recess between Christmas and New Year's Day.

The sequestering of the jurors, it is understood, would not come until after the complete jury, including alternates, has been impaneled.

The combination of a possible death penalty, the great amount of

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II-1 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

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Editor: Nick B. Williams
Title: KENSALT

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publicity in the case and the prominence of the victim would seem to militate against the selection of the jury in less than two weeks.

Prosecutors have indicated that their position on any request for a continuance is that they will be ready to go to trial on Nov. 1 or at any other time, and that if there is any delay in the proceedings, it will be defense-motivated.

Opposition Possible

Parsons' other two motions probably will be opposed to some extent by Dep. Dist. Attys. Lynn D. Compton, John E. Howard and David N. Fitts.

Under court decisions, Parsons is at least entitled to see any evidence the prosecution intends to present in court.

How much more than this Parsons is able to get—those statements and other evidence prosecutors do not expect to use—will have to be decided by Judge Walker.

In any event, some opposition by the prosecution can be expected on this point.

Question Arises

Because there appears to be a question over the admissibility of the evidence Parsons wants to have suppressed—it is believed that no search war-

rant was used when it was seized—the extent to which that motion may be opposed by Compton, Howard and Fitts is not known.

They could state for the record that they do not intend to use such evidence—including notebooks, books and personal papers belonging to Sirhan—and the question as to whether it should be suppressed then would become moot.

There is always the possibility that because of the importance of the case the prosecution may feel it should take a so-called hardline and oppose every motion made by Parsons.

The danger in this is that if there is some merit to Parson's request—and there appears to be—a ruling adverse to the prosecution could be interpreted as a victory for the defense when, realistically, there was none.

Sirhan will probably be making his longest appearance in court yet. His previous stays have ranged from five minutes to 28 minutes.

The length of today's hearing, which could last most of the day or longer, will be determined by how strenuously the prosecution opposes Parsons' motions.

The proceedings again will be held in a makeshift courtroom on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice, near Sirhan's heavily guarded cell.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS A-2

Trial in RFK Death May Be Postponed

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, charged with slaying Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, may be delayed from Nov. 1 until early next year.

This possibility was raised yesterday by discussions under way between judges and attorneys.

Sirhan, a 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant, will make his sixth court appearance tomorrow. The date was set for the naming of a judge and a courtroom, but Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker has already been assigned the trial in the eighth floor of the Hall of Justice.

A reason for delaying the trial was given as the length — an estimated two months. If it began Nov. 1, jurors probably would be locked up during the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays.

In addition, an attorney expected to assist defense counsel Russell E. Parsons is still unavailable to help in the case because of other commitments.

Parsons moved last week to suppress certain evidence and asked that he be given all statements and reports now held by prosecutors and police. A hearing date on these matters is expected to be set tomorrow.

The New York senator was shot to death in a Los Angeles hotel minutes after proclaiming victory in California's June 5 Democratic presidential primary.

* * * *

Negroes Urged Not to Vote for President

CLEVELAND (UPI)—Roy Innis, director of the Congress of Racial Equality, has urged Negroes not to vote for president this year.

He said election of any of the three candidates "would perpetuate the present power groups in America."

"We are asking people to vote only on local issues and for local candidates who identify with black people," he said.

Innis was here in connection with CORE's voter registration drive.

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The Washington Post _____
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Trial of Sirhan Expected to Be Put Off Till 1969

**Defense May Ask New
Date in Jordanian's 6th
Court Appearance Friday**

BY RON EINSTOSS

Times Staff Writer

Sirhan B. Sirhan's trial on murder charges in the slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, now scheduled to begin Nov. 1, is expected to be continued until a later date, probably after the first of the year.

A new trial date may be sought by the defense Friday when the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant makes his sixth appearance in court.

The reasons such a postponement seems likely are twofold:

1—The attorney who is expected to assist Russell E. Parsons in defending Sirhan still is unavailable because of other commitments.

2—There is a possibility that the jury will be sequestered throughout the entire trial which would cause jurors to be locked up during the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays if the case begins as now scheduled.

May Last Two Months

Present estimates are that the trial will last about two months.

When Sirhan appears in court Friday, it again will be before Superior Judge Richard Schauer.

The date originally had been set for the naming of a judge to try the case and a courtroom.

Those selections already have been announced, reportedly so work could begin on trial arrangements and problems of security.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker was assigned to the case and the trial was set in Department 107 on the eighth floor of the Hall of Justice.

That courtroom reportedly will not be used in the case until the actual trial begins.

Hearings on pretrial motions will continue to be heard on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice in a special room near Sirhan's heavily guarded cell.

Last week Parsons made motions to suppress certain evidence and be given all statements and reports now in the hands of the police and prosecutors.

Expected to Set Date

Judge Schauer on Friday is expected to set a hearing date on these matters before Judge Walker.

The evidence Parsons is seeking to suppress basically consists of items belonging to Sirhan which were taken by police from his mother's home in Pasadena.

These reportedly include several diary-type notebooks containing personal writings of Sirhan.

One of the notations is said to be that "Kennedy must be assassinated before June 5, 1968." The three bullets which felled the Democratic presidential aspirant were fired 16 minutes after midnight on June 5. Sen. Kennedy died 25 hours later.

Sirhan also is accused of feloniously assaulting, with intent to commit murder, five other persons who were attending the election night victory celebration at the Ambassador.

The book and movie rights to Sirhan's memoirs have been sold to Robert Blair Kaiser, a California author and former news magazine correspondent in Europe.

A sizable part of the royalties reportedly will be paid to Sirhan's lawyers.

Kaiser, it is understood, has been granted exclusive rights to interview Sirhan in his jail cell.

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Title: KENSALT

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Classification: LA 56-156.

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS *A-2*

Judge Is Appointed For Trial of Sirhan

LOS ANGELES (UPI)—Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker, 69, who handled the famous Confidential magazine trial a decade ago, has been appointed to try Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy June 5.



Judge Walker

Selection of Walker to preside at the trial of the Jordanian native, scheduled to start Nov. 1, was announced yesterday. The site of the trial—the courtroom now designated as Department 107, Room 832, on the 8th floor of the Hall of Justice—also was announced. Sirhan, 24, is being held in a specially protected cell in the Hall of Justice.

The dean of Los Angeles criminal judges, Walker has heard more criminal cases than any other jurist in Los Angeles County. He once ruled the death penalty constitutional. He handed down the death penalty to Caryl Chessman, who died in the gas chamber in 1960 after a 12-year legal battle.

Walker was appointed to the bench in 1953 by Gov. Earl Warren, now U.S. Chief Justice, and presided at the first trial of Confidential magazine—which included sensational testimony involving top Hollywood stars.

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The Washington Post _____
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Los Angeles Judge Gets Sirhan Trial Assignment

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 19—more criminal cases than Superior Judge Herbert V. Judge Walker. In 1964 the Walker, known as the dean of Criminal Courts Bar Association composed primarily of Los Angeles County's criminal defense lawyers, presented an court bench, has been assigned to conduct the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, it was announced today. award to him which read in part: "His standards of fairness and justice have been in the highest traditions of judicial responsibility . . ."

The appointment of the long-time public servant, lay church leader and veteran jurist was made by Superior Judge Richard Schauer.

Judge Walker, one of the most respected judges of the Superior Court, has the reputation of being firm but fair. Now 69, he was appointed to the Superior Court in 1953 by then-Gov. Earl Warren after a lengthy career in public service.

No judge here has tried

Judge Walker has conducted many celebrated trials, including the Confidential magazine libel action. He once sentenced Caryl Chessman to death. In 1967, after a 12-day hearing during which many experts in the field of crime and its punishment testified both pro and con, Judge Walker held that the death penalty is not unconstitutional.

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The Washington Post Times Herald _____
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MURKIN

An attorney for James Earl Ray, accused killer of Martin Luther King, filed motions calling for an end to electronic surveillance of Ray. He said his client was the most spied-on prisoner in the "free world."

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PRISONERS 9/15 NX

--WORLD HORIZONS FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, SEPT. 22 OR THEREAFTER--
 (1,400) (PICTURE)

AMERICA'S TWO MOST GUARDED PRISONERS--SIRHAN SIRHAN AND JAMES EARL RAY

(EDITOR'S NOTE: JAMES EARL RAY, ILLINOIS-BORN BANK ROBBER AND IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW MOST OF HIS LIFE, AND SIRHAN B. SIRHAN, A SHY, SERIOUS YOUNG IMMIGRANT FROM JORDAN, WOULD HAVE LITTLE IN COMMON IF IT WERE NOT FOR ONE FACT: THEY ARE BOTH CHARGED WITH ASSASSINATIONS OF PROMINENT AMERICAN LEADERS--RAY OF MURDERING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., SIRHAN OF SLAYING SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY. EACH IS DUE TO GO ON TRIAL IN NOVEMBER. THESE TWO DISPATCHES DESCRIBE HOW THE MEN ARE PASSING THEIR DAYS TILL THEN.)

BY JACK V. FOX

LOS ANGELES (UPI)--EVERY MEAL THAT SIRHAN B. SIRHAN EATS IS PREPARED INDIVIDUALLY FOR HIM ON A LITTLE ELECTRIC STOVE A FEW FEET FROM HIS CELL.

SAYS LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF PETER J. PITCHESS:

"WE DON'T WANT SOMEONE POISONING EVERYONE IN THE JAIL TRYING TO GET AT HIM."

SIRHAN'S MOTHER, MARY, HAS CALLED ON HIM HALF A DOZEN TIMES. BUT SHE HAS YET TO EMBRACE HER SON OR EVEN TOUCH HIM. SHE IS NOT ALLOWED IN HIS CELL AND ALTHOUGH SHE CAN SEE HIM THROUGH A GLASS SHIELD, SHE TALKS WITH HIM ON AN INTERCOM.

SIRHAN IS NOT ALLOWED TO LISTEN TO A RADIO OR WATCH TELEVISION. THE ONLY SOUND HE USUALLY HEARS IS THE HUM OF AN ELECTRIC FAN.

HE HAS NOT SEEN THE SUN OR BREATHED FRESH AIR SINCE HE WAS MOVED ON JULY 7 FROM THE MEN'S CENTRAL JAIL TO THE 13TH FLOOR JAIL IN THE HALL OF JUSTICE IN THE LOS ANGELES CIVIC CENTER. EVEN THEN HE SAW NO DAYLIGHT BECAUSE THE TRANSFER WAS MADE IN PRE-DAWN HOURS.

A GUARD SITS INSIDE SIRHAN'S GREEN-PAINTED CELL COMPLEX 24 HOURS A DAY. ANOTHER GUARD WATCHES FROM OUTSIDE THE BARS. TWO CELLS MAKE UP SIRHAN'S QUARTERS, PLUS A CORRIDOR INTO WHICH THE TWO SMALL CELLS OPEN AND IN WHICH THE ACCUSED MAY TAKE EXERCISE. IN ADDITION TO JUST WALKING UP AND DOWN, HE ALSO DOES PUSHUPS.

THERE ARE FIVE UNITS IN THE CELL BLOCK BUT SIRHAN IS THE ONLY PRISONER. ONE OF HIS CELLS CONTAINS A STEEL COT WITH MATTRESS, A PORCELAIN WASHSTAND AND A POLISHED METAL MIRROR. THE OTHER CONTAINS LAVATORY FACILITIES. AS JAIL QUARTERS GO, THE ARRANGEMENT IS A DELUXE ONE.

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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SIRHAN READS ONLY THE MAIL HIS ATTORNEY THINKS HE SHOULD READ. AT FIRST HE GOT DOZENS OF DEATH THREATS. THEY HAVE FALLEN OFF BUT STILL THEY COME.

SIRHAN WEARS LEATHER THONG SANDALS, BLUE DENIM PANTS AND A WHITE T-SHIRT. HIS ONLY DIVERSION IS READING. HE GOES THROUGH THE LOS ANGELES TIMES EVERY MORNING. HE ALSO HAS READ DOZENS OF BOOKS, MAINLY HISTORIES, RELIGIOUS WORKS AND BIOGRAPHIES OF FAMOUS MEN SUCH AS GANDHI.

FOR HIS PRE-TRIAL COURT APPEARANCES, SIRHAN HAS BEEN ESCORTED 40 FEET FROM HIS CELL TO A MINI-FORTRESS ROOM, ON THE SAME FLOOR WITH THE WINDOWS COVERED WITH STEEL PLATE. HE IS ESCORTED BY A PHALANK OF DEPUTIES, NONE OF WHOM IS ARMED LEST SOMEONE TRY TO GRAB A GUN.

THOSE ENTERING THE ROOM--NEWSMEN, A HANDFUL OF SPECTATORS, HIS BROTHERS AND MOTHER, LAWYERS--ARE SEARCHED FROM HEAD TO TOE. UPI REPORTER JOSEPH ST. AMANT WAS REQUIRED TO SURRENDER A FINGERNAIL CLIPPER.

NEVER IN MEMORY OF THE OLDEST LOS ANGELES POLICE OFFICER HAS SUCH SECURITY BEEN IMPOSED AS THAT SURROUNDING THE 24-YEAR-OLD JORDANIAN IMMIGRANT WHO IS ACCUSED OF THE FATAL SHOOTING OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY IN THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL IN LOS ANGELES IN THE EARLY MORNING OF JUNE 5.

THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IS ABSOLUTELY DETERMINED THERE WILL BE NO REPETITION OF THE NIGHTMARE IN DALLAS WHEN JACK RUBY KILLED LEE HARVEY OSWALD, THE ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

SIRHAN'S LAWYER, RUSSELL PARSONS, SAYS HIS CLIENT HAS NO COMPLAINT ABOUT HIS ISOLATION OR TREATMENT, AND THAT HE SEEMS IN FAIRLY GOOD SPIRITS. HE IS PLEASANT TO THE GUARDS, COOPERATES EAGERLY AND WILLINGLY WITH HIS ATTORNEY.

ALONG WITH HIS ATTORNEYS, CHIEF INVESTIGATOR, MICHAEL MCGOWAN, AND TWO-COURT APPOINTED PSYCHIATRISTS, PARSONS HAS BEEN THE ONLY PERSON EXCEPT FOR JAIL PERSONNEL TO ENTER THE CELL WITH SIRHAN.

NOT ONLY IS SIRHAN PHYSICALLY REMOVED FROM OUTSIDE CONTACT BUT A COURT ORDER BY JUDGE ARTHUR ALARCON HAS FORBIDDEN COMMENT BY LAWYERS, OFFICERS, WITNESSES OR COURT OFFICIALS ABOUT THE CASE.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY EVELLE YOUNGER HAS ARGUED THAT THE BAN SERVES NEITHER THE INTERESTS OF JUSTICE NOR SIRHAN'S INTERESTS. HE ASSERTS IT HAS PREVENTED ANSWERING MANY LEGITIMATE QUESTIONS--SUCH AS WHETHER MRS. ETHEL KENNEDY WILL BE CALLED AS A WITNESS.

THE COURT REFUSED TO MODIFY THE ORDER.

SIRHAN SUFFERED A BROKEN FINGER, A SPRAINED KNEE AND ANKLE IN THE SCUFFLE AFTER KENNEDY WAS SHOT. HE MADE HIS FIRST COURT APPEARANCES IN A WHEELCHAIR WITH HIS FINGER IN A SPLINT BUT LAST MONTH HE WAS APPARENTLY COMPLETELY RECOVERED.

HIS ONLY REQUEST WAS FOR SLEEPING PILLS--AND THAT WAS GRANTED. UNDER CAREFUL SUPERVISION BY A DOCTOR.

FIVE FEET, FOUR INCHES TALL AND WEIGHING ONLY 125 POUNDS, HE IS DARK, BIRDLIKE FIGURE WHO LOOKS MORE LIKE A TEEN-AGER THAN A MAN OF 24.

IF THERE IS NO POSTPONEMENT, SIRHAN GOES ON TRIAL FRIDAY NOV. 1. HE HAS PLEADED INNOCENT.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL ASK A JURY TO SEND HIM TO THE GAS CHAMBER.

BY JAMES M. EVANS

MEMPHIS, TENN. (UPI)--JAMES EARL RAY, AWAITING TRIAL IN THE SLAYING OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., WEARS THE SAME CLOTHING, EATS THE SAME FOOD AND CLEANS HIS CELL AS OTHER PRISONERS AT THE SHELBY COUNTY JAIL. THERE THE SIMILARITY ENDS.

HIS CLOTHING, REGULATION PRISON GARB, CONSISTS OF DENIM TROUSERS, A LIGHT BLUE DENIM SHIRT AND EITHER LOAFERS OR SANDALS.

HIS FOOD, DURING A NORMAL DAY, MIGHT INCLUDE A BREAKFAST OF EGGS, GRITS, TOAST AND COFFEE WITH DINNER OF BEANS AND FRANKS, A VEGETABLE, CORNBREAD AND COFFEE OR TEA.

"HE'S A GOOD HOUSEKEEPER," SAID SHERIFF WILLIAM MORRIS IN A NEWS CONFERENCE HE HELD SHORTLY BEFORE JULY 30 WHEN CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE W. PRESTON BATTLE, TOLD THAT HIS ORDER GOVERNING PRE-TRIAL PUBLICITY HAD PROBABLY BEEN VIOLATED, ORDERED AN END TO ALL NEWS CONFERENCES FOR PRINCIPALS IN THE CASE.

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(ADVANCE--WORLD HORIZONS FOR 9/22 RELEASE)

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PRISONERS 9/15 NX

--WORLD HORIZONS FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, SEPT. 22 OR THEREAFTER--
 (1,400) (PICTURE)

AMERICA'S TWO MOST GUARDED PRISONERS--SIRHAN SIRHAN AND JAMES EARL RAY

(EDITOR'S NOTE: JAMES EARL RAY, ILLINOIS-BORN BANK ROBBER AND IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW MOST OF HIS LIFE, AND SIRHAN B. SIRHAN, A SHY, SERIOUS YOUNG IMMIGRANT FROM JORDAN, WOULD HAVE LITTLE IN COMMON IF IT WERE NOT FOR ONE FACT: THEY ARE BOTH CHARGED WITH ASSASSINATIONS OF PROMINENT AMERICAN LEADERS--RAY OF MURDERING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., SIRHAN OF SLAYING SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY. EACH IS DUE TO GO ON TRIAL IN NOVEMBER. THESE TWO DISPATCHES DESCRIBE HOW THE MEN ARE PASSING THEIR DAYS TILL THEN.)

BY JACK V. FOX

LOS ANGELES (UPI)--EVERY MEAL THAT SIRHAN B. SIRHAN EATS IS PREPARED INDIVIDUALLY FOR HIM ON A LITTLE ELECTRIC STOVE A FEW FEET FROM HIS CELL.

SAYS LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF PETER J. PITCHESS:

"WE DON'T WANT SOMEONE POISONING EVERYONE IN THE JAIL TRYING TO GET AT HIM."

SIRHAN'S MOTHER, MARY, HAS CALLED ON HIM HALF A DOZEN TIMES, BUT SHE HAS YET TO EMBRACE HER SON OR EVEN TOUCH HIM. SHE IS NOT ALLOWED IN HIS CELL AND ALTHOUGH SHE CAN SEE HIM THROUGH A GLASS SHIELD, SHE TALKS WITH HIM ON AN INTERCOM.

SIRHAN IS NOT ALLOWED TO LISTEN TO A RADIO OR WATCH TELEVISION. THE ONLY SOUND HE USUALLY HEARS IS THE HUM OF AN ELECTRIC FAN.

HE HAS NOT SEEN THE SUN OR BREATHED FRESH AIR SINCE HE WAS MOVED ON JULY 7 FROM THE MEN'S CENTRAL JAIL TO THE 13TH FLOOR JAIL IN THE HALL OF JUSTICE IN THE LOS ANGELES CIVIC CENTER. EVEN THEN HE SAW NO DAYLIGHT BECAUSE THE TRANSFER WAS MADE IN PRE-DAWN HOURS.

A GUARD SITS INSIDE SIRHAN'S GREEN-PAINTED CELL COMPLEX 24 HOURS A DAY. ANOTHER GUARD WATCHES FROM OUTSIDE THE BARS. TWO CELLS MAKE UP SIRHAN'S QUARTERS, PLUS A CORRIDOR INTO WHICH THE TWO SMALL CELLS OPEN AND IN WHICH THE ACCUSED MAY TAKE EXERCISE. IN ADDITION TO JUST WALKING UP AND DOWN, HE ALSO DOES PUSHUPS.

THERE ARE FIVE UNITS IN THE CELL BLOCK BUT SIRHAN IS THE ONLY PRISONER. ONE OF HIS CELLS CONTAINS A STEEL COT WITH MATTRESS, A PORCELAIN WASHSTAND AND A POLISHED METAL MIRROR. THE OTHER CONTAINS LAVATORY FACILITIES. AS JAIL QUARTERS GO, THE ARRANGEMENT IS A DELUXE ONE.

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SEP 18 1968

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

NOT RECORDED

145 SEP 18 1968

51 SEP 20 1968

SIRHAN READS ONLY THE MAIL HIS ATTORNEY THINKS HE SHOULD READ. AT FIRST HE GOT DOZENS OF DEATH THREATS. THEY HAVE FALLEN OFF BUT STILL THEY COME.

SIRHAN WEARS LEATHER THONG SANDALS, BLUE DENIM PANTS AND A WHITE T-SHIRT. HIS ONLY DIVERSION IS READING. HE GOES THROUGH THE LOS ANGELES TIMES EVERY MORNING. HE ALSO HAS READ DOZENS OF BOOKS, MAINLY HISTORIES, RELIGIOUS WORKS AND BIOGRAPHIES OF FAMOUS MEN SUCH AS GANDHI.

FOR HIS PRE-TRIAL COURT APPEARANCES, SIRHAN HAS BEEN ESCORTED 40 FEET FROM HIS CELL TO A MINI-FORTRESS ROOM ON THE SAME FLOOR WITH THE WINDOWS COVERED WITH STEEL PLATE. HE IS ESCORTED BY A PHALANX OF DEPUTIES, NONE OF WHOM IS ARMED LEST SOMEONE TRY TO GRAB A GUN.

THOSE ENTERING THE ROOM--NEWSMEN, A HANDFUL OF SPECTATORS, HIS BROTHERS AND MOTHER, LAWYERS--ARE SEARCHED FROM HEAD TO TOE. UPI REPORTER JOSEPH ST. AMANT WAS REQUIRED TO SURRENDER A FINGERNAIL CLIPPER.

NEVER IN MEMORY OF THE OLDEST LOS ANGELES POLICE OFFICER HAS SUCH SECURITY BEEN IMPOSED AS THAT SURROUNDING THE 24-YEAR-OLD JORDANIAN IMMIGRANT WHO IS ACCUSED OF THE FATAL SHOOTING OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY IN THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL IN LOS ANGELES IN THE EARLY MORNING OF JUNE 5.

THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IS ABSOLUTELY DETERMINED THERE WILL BE NO REPETITION OF THE NIGHTMARE IN DALLAS WHEN JACK RUBY KILLED LEE HARVEY OSWALD, THE ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

SIRHAN'S LAWYER, RUSSELL PARSONS, SAYS HIS CLIENT HAS NO COMPLAINT ABOUT HIS ISOLATION OR TREATMENT, AND THAT HE SEEMS IN FAIRLY GOOD SPIRITS. HE IS PLEASANT TO THE GUARDS, COOPERATES EAGERLY AND WILLINGLY WITH HIS ATTORNEY.

ALONG WITH HIS ATTORNEYS, CHIEF INVESTIGATOR, MICHAEL MCGOWAN, AND TWO COURT APPOINTED PSYCHIATRISTS, PARSONS HAS BEEN THE ONLY PERSON EXCEPT FOR JAIL PERSONNEL TO ENTER THE CELL WITH SIRHAN.

NOT ONLY IS SIRHAN PHYSICALLY REMOVED FROM OUTSIDE CONTACT BUT A COURT ORDER BY JUDGE ARTHUR ALARCON HAS FORBIDDEN COMMENT BY LAWYERS, OFFICERS, WITNESSES OR COURT OFFICIALS ABOUT THE CASE.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY EVELLE YOUNGER HAS ARGUED THAT THE BAN SERVES NEITHER THE INTERESTS OF JUSTICE NOR SIRHAN'S INTERESTS. HE ASSERTS IT HAS PREVENTED ANSWERING MANY LEGITIMATE QUESTIONS--SUCH AS WHETHER MRS. ETHEL KENNEDY WILL BE CALLED AS A WITNESS.

THE COURT REFUSED TO MODIFY THE ORDER.

SIRHAN SUFFERED A BROKEN FINGER, A SPRAINED KNEE AND ANKLE IN THE SCUFFLE AFTER KENNEDY WAS SHOT. HE MADE HIS FIRST COURT APPEARANCES IN A WHEELCHAIR WITH HIS FINGER IN A SPLINT BUT LAST MONTH HE WAS APPARENTLY COMPLETELY RECOVERED.

HIS ONLY REQUEST WAS FOR SLEEPING PILLS--AND THAT WAS GRANTED UNDER CAREFUL SUPERVISION BY A DOCTOR.

FIVE FEET, FOUR INCHES TALL AND WEIGHING ONLY 125 POUNDS, HE IS DARK, BIRDLIKE FIGURE WHO LOOKS MORE LIKE A TEEN-AGER THAN A MAN OF 24.

IF THERE IS NO POSTPONEMENT, SIRHAN GOES ON TRIAL FRIDAY NOV. 1. HE HAS PLEADED INNOCENT.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL ASK A JURY TO SEND HIM TO THE GAS CHAMBER.

BY JAMES M. EVANS

MEMPHIS, TENN. (UPI)--JAMES EARL RAY, AWAITING TRIAL IN THE SLAYING OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., WEARS THE SAME CLOTHING, EATS THE SAME FOOD AND CLEANS HIS CELL AS OTHER PRISONERS AT THE SHELBY COUNTY JAIL.

THERE THE SIMILARITY ENDS.

HIS CLOTHING, REGULATION PRISON GARB, CONSISTS OF DENIM TROUSERS, A LIGHT BLUE DENIM SHIRT AND EITHER LOAFERS OR SANDALS.

HIS FOOD, DURING A NORMAL DAY, MIGHT INCLUDE A BREAKFAST OF EGGS, GRITS, TOAST AND COFFEE WITH DINNER OF BEANS AND FRANKS, A VEGETABLE, CORNBREAD AND COFFEE OR TEA.

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(ADVANCE--WORLD HORIZONS FOR 9/22 RELEASE)

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Vote Backs RFK Autopsy Picture Ban

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The California Assembly has passed, 71-0, a bill designed to prevent publication of the photos of Robert F. Kennedy's autopsy.

The bill — approved yesterday — goes to the Senate where easy approval is forecast next week. The measure was introduced by Democrats at the request of Kennedy family associates, but had the full cooperation of Republican Gov. Ronald Reagan and GOP legislators.

Reproduction of any of the 300 photographs taken during the post-mortem on the body of the slain New York senator in Los Angeles in June would be "the ultimate in lack of taste," said Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh, who was Kennedy's presidential campaign chairman in California.

Los Angeles Dist. Atty. Evelle Younger said persons close to the Kennedy family expressed fears that when the photographs are introduced in court, "some second-rate publisher is going to put all 300 of them in a book or magazine and sell them to the kind of people who respond to that kind of pictures."

Without the law, copies of the photos would be available to anyone for a nominal fee as soon as they were introduced in the planned trial of Sirhan Birshara Sirhan, charged with Kennedy's assassination moments after the senator proclaimed victory in the California presidential primary.

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The Washington Post _____
Times Herald _____
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The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
Daily News (New York) _____
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The Sun (Baltimore) _____
The Worker _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____
Date 9-14-68

NOT RECORDED

14 SEP 17 1968

61 SEP 19 1968

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Younger Appeals Order on Sirhan

District Attorney Evelle J. Younger has filed an appeal requesting the court order limiting publicity in the Sirhan B. Sirhan case be modified.

Sirhan is the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. A court order was issued by Superior Court Judge Arthur A. Alarcon June 7 restricting all persons involved in the case, including police and district attorney's investigators, from making statements concerning Sirhan or evidence against him.

On Aug. 2, Younger requested the Superior Court to modify the existing order and make it more lenient.

At that time Younger said he sought the modifications "to allow investigators to repudiate people claiming to be witnesses who are in fact merely seeking publicity." The court order forbids this being done.

Superior Court Judge Richard Schauer denied Younger's motion.

Younger's latest appeal, which will be heard by the California State Court of Appeal, again asks that the order be modified.

"Never before in the history of American judicial relations with the public has the voice of

responsible law enforcement been more muted than in this case," Younger said.

In the lengthy legal writ seeking the modifications, Younger says he has information, "he believes the public is entitled to know and which does not interfere with the constitutional right of a defendant to a fair trial."

Younger, a former Superior Court Judge, will go before the Appeals Court himself to argue for the modifications.

Sirhan is scheduled to return to court Oct. 4 when Judge Schauer is expected to name the Superior Court Judge who will try the case. His trial is sched-

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
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Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
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Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-6 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 9/11/68
Edition: 8 Star
Author:
Editor: Donald Goodenow
Title: KENSALT

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Classification: LA 56-156

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

54 OCT 13 1968

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Mr. Tolson _____
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Mr. Mohr _____
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Bill Restricting Use of Kennedy Autopsy Photographs Killed

BY TOM GOFF

Times Sacramento Bureau Chief

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Reagan said Tuesday he has vetoed a bill passed by the 1968 Legislature which would have made it difficult to exploit for commercial and other purposes photographs taken of the body of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The measure, coauthored by Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh (D-Inglewood), would have required persons wanting to make use of official autopsy pictures to obtain a court order.

Under present law, copies of such pictures may be obtained by anyone willing to pay the price of reproducing them.

The restriction had been requested by Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger of Los Angeles County, who feared there would be a wide demand for Kennedy photos by exploiters and the morbidly curious.

Many of 300 autopsy pictures of the late senator, taken by the Los Angeles county coroner's office, will be used as evidence in the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, Kennedy's accused assassin, Younger said.

Additional Provision in Bill

The vetoed bill would also have prohibited the use in California of wire-tapped evidence legally obtained in some other state but which would have been illegal had it been obtained in this state.

Reagan said he vetoed the bill because it "is so broadly worded that it would have the unintended effect of impeding the legitimate use of autopsy photographs in medical education and research."

He said medical researchers and forensic pathologists had complained that the bill would have had a detrimental effect on scientific advancement.

"I have no quarrel with the principal objective," the governor said.

The veto was one of several announced by Reagan on Tuesday.

He said he also has refused to sign a bill which would have provided for a special high-benefit retirement system for 600 employees of the State Legislature.

"The program would not be funded on an actuarially sound basis," he said.

Costs, estimated at \$1.8 million a year initially, would "increase dramatically as the state's share of liability under the program grew from year to year," the governor said.

Other Vetoes Listed

The plan, rushed through in the closing days of the legislative session, would have cost legislative employees less than the general state retirement system and given them benefits up to three times as great.

Other vetoes included:

—Speaker Unruh's \$1.5 million summer jobs program for youths. Reagan said the state already has a highly successful summer jobs program, and the

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-3 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

FILE
6-1-68

Date: 9/4/68
Edition: Home
Author: Tom Goff
Editor: Nick B. Williams
Title: KENSALT

Character:

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Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

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Unruh measure "only adds to the frustrations of minority unemployment" by providing make work type jobs.

—A bill by Sen. Randolph Collier (D-Yreka) which would have permitted convicted drunk drivers to choose between jail sentences and suspension of drivers licenses.

Such discretion said Reagan, should rest with judges and not offenders.

—A proposal by Sen. George Moscone (D-San Francisco) which would have deleted boards of police commissioners, city and town marshals from the list of persons authorized to issue licenses that carry concealed firearms.

More Study Needed

He said the entire field needs further legislative study.

—A measure Reagan said would give preferential tax treatment by eliminating from sales and use tax the sale or lease of equipment and personal property to be used in offshore oil explorations. It was sponsored by Assemblyman John G. Vene-man (R-Modesto).

—A bill which would have authorized \$1.2 million for a two-year experimental program of year-round operation at a poor city high school in Oakland where youngsters find it difficult to get summer jobs. The sponsor was March K. Fong (D-Oakland).

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 Holmes ☐
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KENSAT

SIRHAN AND RAY SELL BOOK RIGHTS

Suspected Assassins to Use
Money for Trial Costs

By HENRY RAYMONT

The accused assassins of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. have agreed to be interviewed in their prison cells for biographies to pay for their court defense.

Two professional writers, in separate contracts, have purchased book and movie rights to the memoirs of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the 24-year-old Jordanian accused of the fatal shooting of Senator Kennedy, and James Earl Ray, the escaped convict from Missouri charged with the murder of Dr. King.

The Sirhan rights were acquired by Robert Blair Kaiser, a California author and former Time magazine correspondent in Europe. A spokesman for Mr. Kaiser, who was not available for comment, said a sizable part of the royalties would be paid to Sirhan's lawyers.

A similar arrangement has been worked out between Ray and William Bradford Huie, author of "Three Lives for Mississippi," the story of the murder in Philadelphia, Miss., of three civil rights workers.

According to reliable publishing sources, literary agents representing the two authors have been visiting book and magazine publishers here for the last two weeks. The price asked could not be learned.

Maximillian Becker, Mr. Kaiser's agent, confirmed that he was negotiating exclusive

rights to the Sirhan memoirs, which he said the California writer had obtained through Sirhan's lawyer, Russell E. Parsons.

William B. Arthur, editor of Look magazine, said he had been discussing the possibility of commissioning one or two articles from Mr. Huie, though no final agreement was reached.

A vice president of The World Publishing Company, who asked not to be named, said yesterday the company was offered book rights to the two projects two weeks ago and had rejected them.

"This is a tragic and rather dreary subject and I don't think it's the sort of thing we would want to publish," the World executive said. World is a subsidiary of The Times Mirror Company of Los Angeles.

In recent days, two other major publishing houses have each signed up a book on the assassination of Dr. King. Gerold Frank, author of "The Boston Strangler" and other best-sellers, has been commissioned by Doubleday & Company, Inc.,

to write an exhaustive profile of the crime. George McMillan, a former Marine Corps combat correspondent and author of an analysis of racial violence in the South, will write a psychological study of Ray for Little, Brown & Company of Boston.

An Early Contact

Interviewed from his home in Hartselle, Ala., Mr. Huie said his contract with Ray would provide him with material not available to anyone else. The writer said he had negotiated the contract through Arthur J. Hanes, Ray's Alabama lawyer, while the suspect was still in a London jail.

Mr. Huie complained that an order by Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle barring most persons from the closely guarded Shelby County Jail in Memphis where Ray is being held had prevented him from having any personal meetings with the suspect. He said he hoped to have the first opportunity for such a meeting after a jury is sworn in. The trial is scheduled for Nov. 12.

Meanwhile, he said, he would

continue to submit questions to Ray through Mr. Hanes. He reported that Ray writes the answers on legal-sized pads of paper while being watched by guards through closed-circuit television cameras in a permanently lighted cell.

The Washington Post
Times Herald

The Washington Daily News

The Evening Star (Washington)

The Sunday Star (Washington)

Daily News (New York)

Sunday News (New York)

New York Post

The New York Times

The Sun (Baltimore)

The Daily World

The New Leader

The Wall Street Journal

The National Observer

People's World

Examiner (Washington)

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Sirhan Said to Value Arab Forum Over Life

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

Sirhan Sirhan intends to "go to the gas chamber—silent" unless he is permitted to turn his trial into an anti-Zionist showcase, Ramparts magazine asserted yesterday.

The accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy recently told one of his brothers that he wants to make the trial "a public and political forum for the Arab position," the magazine said in an article in its current issue.

"In fact," the story continued, "he has confided to his family that he will never make any statement unless

special provisions are made for the courtroom proceedings.

"What Sirhan wants is, quite simply, publicity. He wants the major networks to be allowed to broadcast the entire trial. If they do so, he will tell all."

The article, in the magazine's Sept. 7 issue, was written by Mahmoud Abdel-Hadi, an Egyptian correspondent for Akhbar Elyoum. As an Arab, he was said to have secured exclusive interviews with members of the 24-year-old suspect's family.

According to the article, Sirhan told his brother, Adel, that unless he gets his

way, "then I shall go to the gas chamber—silent."

A Mere Symbol

But if he gets his forum, Abdel-Hadi reports, Sirhan and his attorney, Russell Parsons, plan to argue that the shooting of Robert Kennedy was "a political gesture and that Kennedy to Sirhan was merely a symbol."

The startling claim, a virtual apologia for assassination, also happens to be what many Arab and Arab American spokesmen have been pressing as a thesis since Kennedy's death June 6. Baldly put, it blames "Zionism" rather than Sirhan for the killing. And it sees the trial as a golden "opportunity" to present the Arab case.

The Ramparts story, however, maintains that Sirhan's strategy is "his own. . . something he developed after thinking about it for long hours in his specially made jail cell."

Sirhan's family, Abdel-Hadi writes, is confused and bitter, surprised that they have not gotten any financial help from Arab consulates in Los Angeles. The suspect himself is described as disappointed that the Arab people have not greeted him as a hero.

Bitter over the Arab-Israeli war last year, Sirhan was also said to have been highly distraught over a Kennedy campaign visit to a Jewish temple in Portland, Ore., where he put on a yarmulke and professed support for selling 50 U.S. jet fighters to Israel.

Seen on Television

Kennedy's donning of the yarmulke does not seem to have been reported in the Los Angeles newspapers. According to Ramparts, Sirhan saw the episode on television.

It "made him very angry," the Ramparts story quoted another brother, Sharif Sirhan, as saying. "He left the room putting his hands on his ears and almost weeping."

"Everything in this country was pushing him to the danger point," Sirhan's mother, Mary, reportedly said. "Everything, the propaganda of the Zionists, everything was against his country, against his people."

Adel is quoted again: "If Sirhan was just an assassin, how could he have done it another way, just by having a gun with a telescope. He went to the Ambassador Hotel expecting to get caught; that is why he left his notes at home. I believe that Sirhan wanted to get caught so that he could say what he believes."

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The Worker _____
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The National Observer _____
People's World _____

Date _____

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